

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KJMCMA) launches its 2013 Season with *ARTicipation: Pop-up Studio 2013*, a new annual program at the Epsten Gallery.

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Celebrating National Activity Professionals Week January 20-25, 2013

"I'm doing this to show other people that they can do this too if they just try..." – Arlene Stern, Village Shalom resident, artist, and quadriplegic.

Kansas City, MO / Overland Park, KS — The Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art is excited to kick off a new season of programs with the return of *ARTicipation: Pop Up Studio*, a community art experience in which KJMCMA's Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom becomes the site for art making as well as display. Epsten Gallery presents its second annual display of artwork created by residents of Village Shalom and offers a series of self-guided projects and artist- and therapist-led workshops in which intergenerational members of the community may utilize the Epsten Gallery as a pop-up studio space to create and share their own works of art.

The opening reception for *ARTicipation* is Sunday, January 20, 2013 from 1-4 p.m. in the Epsten Gallery. *ARTicipation: Pop Up Studio 2013* will remain on view through Sunday, March 17, 2013. Most related activities are free, and please call or visit www.kcjmca.org for an updated calendar of both public and private events.

ARTicipation: Pop Up Studio 2013

KJMCMA is pleased to present the second annual *ARTicipation: Pop Up Studio*, a project of the Epsten Gallery that is being established as an ongoing component of KJMCMA's annual exhibition season.

Launched by KJMCMA in 2012, *ARTicipation* is a new art therapy program that offers a forum for arts and health professionals to collaborate in the design and implementation of interactive workshops for residents at Village Shalom as well as the whole community. This program represents an exciting partnership between the KJMCMA and the Kansas Art Therapy Association as they work together to demonstrate how arts-related health and well-being programs for those living in continuum care environments may be an integral part of a whole community's development.

KJMCMA believes the creative process has the ability to bring different communities and generations together for meaningful shared experiences. During *ARTicipation*, KJMCMA transforms the Epsten Gallery into a temporary art studio for the creative exploration and application of art-and-therapy-based ideas and practices, in both self-guided and

assisted creative workshops. Objects created in this environment may also become part of a growing display of artwork created by Village Shalom residents, staff, walk-in participants and groups visiting the Epsten Gallery.

In *ARTicipation: Pop Up Studio 2013*, the Epsten Gallery's display includes a series of self-guided projects for anyone to engage and interact with to become part of the exhibition. This program also features partnerships with a series of arts agencies and organizations, individual artists, curators, art educators, health care professionals and community volunteers from the fields of art therapy, medicine, and health & human services, who will collaborate in ARTicipation's creative community workshops.

Listed below are brief descriptions of the self-guided projects visitors may engage in during *ARTicipation: Pop Up Studio 2013* at the Epsten Gallery:

1. *A Bird in the Hand...*

This photographic project asks members of the public to choose an object of some significance to them and photograph their hand(s) holding the object, or have someone photograph them, and provide a brief description of the object and its significance. Photographs may be taken by the participant or the Epsten Gallery and may be printed out and pinned to a designated wall in the gallery to become part of the exhibit. (*A Bird in the Hand...* was launched in 2011 as an ongoing online project at www.kcjmca.org under the "Connect - Opportunity" drop-down menu.) Submissions are being gathered for a forthcoming group exhibition and book of the same title (dates to be announced).

2. *The Trading Post*

This installation consist of a series of gallery wall shelves onto which the public may bring and place objects (perhaps something that was once significant or useful to them) that they wish to give away. In exchange, they may claim another object of perceived equal value as theirs to take. (Objects will be periodically guest curated, arranged, and displayed accordingly to various properties and relationships such as color, function, or theme.) Objects delivered or taken away may also be photographed as part of the *Bird in the Hand* project.

3. *Salon Wall Collaboration*

This installation consists of a series of framed blank canvases of varied shape and dimensions arranged, salon-style, on a wall in the gallery. These surfaces may be drawn or painted upon by visitors to the Epsten Gallery for the purpose of generating both works of art and conversations regarding the process of collaborative and community-based art making practices.

4. *Artist Trading Cards*

Back by popular demand, these 2x3" blank cards are provided by the Epsten Gallery for visitors to create small works of art to share and trade. A wall in the gallery will be designated for their display, and participants may swap out their creation for another in a one-to-one trade.

5. *Open Book: Library Exchange*

An open bookshelf and reading corner will be available in the Epsten Gallery for visitors to deposit and take books of select interest to serve as source(s) of creative expression and inspiration.

An inventory of free art supplies and a wash station is also provided in the Epsten Gallery during regular gallery hours, Tuesday-Friday from 11am-4pm and Saturday and Sunday from 1-4pm for the public to engage in one or more of this program's self-guided projects. Sign up sheets will also be available for visitors to RSVP and attend some of the more than 24 private and public community-based workshops led by artists and art therapists during this eight week program.

For a complete list of related public and private events scheduled for KCJMCA's *ARTicipation: Pop Up Studio 2013*, January 20-March 27, 2013, please contact the Epsten Gallery for the all the latest changes and additions.

Established in 1991, the purpose of Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KCJMCA) is to provide innovative art exhibitions and related programming that engage seniors and diverse audiences from all segments of our community to enrich lives and celebrate our common humanity through art. KCJMCA realizes this goal through its celebrated Epsten Gallery venue at Village Shalom and through its Museum Without Walls exhibition partnership program.

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