

Dear Friends of the Bemis Center,

At the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, clarity of mission is one of our core strengths. We exist to support artists, fostering creativity in its purest form. This purposeful generosity infuses the entire organization.

It is also one of the main reasons we have experienced unprecedented growth over the past year. When many other non-profits were retreating inward, reluctant to take risks in the face of uncertainty, we have been expanding. Working towards this common goal, Bemis Center staff, the board of directors, members and sponsors have had the foresight to identify opportunities and the agility to capitalize on them.

This momentum, a direct result of last year's Building Bemis capital campaign, has allowed us to expand our programming and cement our reputation as a leader in the growing field of artist communities. We are currently on track to receive over 1400 residency applications this year,

double what we had just a few years ago. We have received recognition and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, calling our new Community Arts Residencies "imaginative and innovative." And our exhibitions program has been making actual rainbows in the sky.

Organizations like the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts have aesthetic and cultural benefits, but I believe the implications of our success extend beyond the arts. The energy generated by our programs and projects have become a catalyst for the community's creativity as a whole. Even as we've expanded, I'm proud to say that our fundamental values remain unchanged — we've remained steadfast in our commitment to artists. If you believe that exceptional talent deserves to be supported, I invite you to join us in accomplishing our mission.

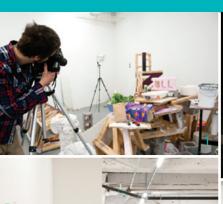
Mark Masuoka
Executive Director/CEO

[ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE]

2011 marked 30 years of the Bemis Center's support of exceptional talent. Since 1981, we've given over 600 artists the gift of time, space and support. Three months of uninterrupted work time, large live/work studios, and generous monthly stipends combine to create an ideal environment for risk-taking, experimentation and creative growth. The program is extremely competitive, with a record 1190 applicants in 2011. To accommodate increasing demand, last year we renovated the 10,000 square foot Okada Sculpture Facility and added five new live/work studios, increasing our capacity by 50%. This \$2.6 million capital campaign has allowed us give the institution over to more artists than ever before.

- 1. Aaron Storck Lawrence, KS October – December 2011 Installation / Painting
- 2. Gwenessa Lam Vancouver, Canada October – December 2011 Painting
- 3. Nathaniel Sullivan Syracuse, NY June – August 2011 Video
- 4. Iede Reckman Netherlands October – December 2011 Installation

- 5. Shannon Rankin Rangeley, ME September – November 2011 Installation / Collage / Sculpture
- 6. Elizabeth Ferrill Snowmass, CO April – June 2011 Painting
- 7. **John Peña**Pittsburgh, PA
 June August 2011
 New Media
- 8. Yinghua Zhu Omaha, NE September – November 2011 Installation





















9. Isabelle Hayeur Montreal, Quebec March – May 2011 Video / Installation

10. Leslie Shows San Francisco, CA March – May 2011 Painting

11. Lucrecia Troncoso Berkeley, CA July – September 2011 Installation

12. Melissa Cooke Madison, WI October – December 2011 Drawing

13. Wendel A. White Pomona, NJ June – August 2011 Photography

14. April Behnke Chicago, IL June – August 2011 Drawing / Painting

15. Letha Wilson Brooklyn, NY March – May 2011 Photography / Sculpture

16. Erik Benson Brooklyn, NY October – December 2011 Painting

17. Peter Owen New York, NY July – September 2011 Drawing / Painting

18. Nicholas Ward Lawrence, KS March – May 2011 Animation 19. suite42 (Tarrah Krajnak and Danielle Julian-Norton) Columbus, OH September – November 2011 Installation

20. Derek Coté Nashville, TN May – July 2011 Installation / Sound

21. Sam Duket
Pawtucket, RI
October – December 2011
Sculpture

22. **Quynh Vantu**Richmond, VA
September – November 2011

23. **Mia Feuer**Richmond, VA
June – August 2011
Sculpture / Installation

24. Lisa Iglesias New York, NY June – August 2011 Drawing / Video

25. **Tim DeVoe**New Milford, CT
July – September 2011
Sculpture

26. Alejandro Almanza Mexico City, Mexico October – December 2011 Installation

27. Sophie Barbasch Brooklyn, NY July – August 2011 Photography







[COMMUNITY ARTS]

The Community Arts program ignites civic engagement by bringing together artists and public organizations, to engage a range of contemporary issues. 2011 marked the pilot year of Community Arts Residencies, an innovative partnership with social services organization Heartland Family Service, benefiting both artists and the public through mutually constructive, two-way engagement. As cuts to art education continued in 2011, projects like the *Fertile Ground* educational curriculum have filled a vital need for teachers across a spectrum of educational disciplines. Community Arts also oversaw an exciting new model for public/private art commissions in 2011, developing a facility-wide master plan for Project Harmony's new headquarters.









[2011 REVENUE + EXPENSES]

Revenue

Contributed Income	\$679,363
Earned Income	\$545,846
Events	\$342,308
In-Kind Donations	\$42,996
Building Bemis Capital Campaign*	\$1,099,520

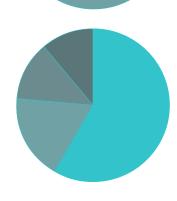
Revenue\$2,710,033*

*Funds received in 2011 were used for Building Bemis capital improvements

Expenses

Artist Centered Programming	\$966,943
Management + General	\$301,716
Development	\$205,014
Events	\$182,124

Expenses \$1,655,797



[SPONSORS]

Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bluestone Development, The Boiler Room, Boyd Jones Construction, La Buvette, Chvala and Company Productions, Clark Creative Group, Council Bluffs Recycling Center, Crane Rental & Rigging, Davis Erection Company, Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund, Duncan Family Foundation, Echo Systems, Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, The FUNd, Gifford Foundation, Sam & Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts, Inc., Harpo Foundation, The Charles and Mary Heider Family Foundation, Holland Foundation, Iowa West Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Peter Kiewit Foundation, Justin V. Allen Design + Development, Larry Gawel Photography, Lincoln Financial Foundation, LIV Lounge, Kiechel Fine Art, Catherine T. and John D. MacArthur Foundation, Carol Gendler | Marathon Realty, Adah and Leon Millard Foundation, Min | Day, National Endowment for the Arts, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraska Humanities Council, Sharee and Murray Newman Foundation, Chris Headley | OmahaComputerHelp.com, Omaha Community Foundation, Omaha Steaks International, Phillip and Terri Schrager Foundation, Proxibid, Quail Distributing, The Reader, Rybin Plumbing and Heating, Schnackel Engineers, William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation, Seim, Johnson, Sestak & Quist, LLP, Sherwin Williams, SilverStone Group, The Todd and Betiana Simon Foundation, The Sound Environment, Upstream Brewing Company, Visions Custom Framing, Warren Distribution, Weitz Family Foundation

























[EXHIBITIONS]

Bemis Center and UNDERGROUND exhibition spaces span 15,000 square feet of flexible space that feature curated exhibitions, events and commissions with established and emerging international, regional and local artists. 2011 was a pivotal year — we presented Vera Mercer's first ever solo exhibition in the United States, commissioned Keith Jacobshagen's landmark A Golden Year, completed renovations throughout our first floor and entry dock, and housed a dynamic and raffish series of UNDERGROUND exhibitions. Throughout these projects, artists and their work transformed the Bemis Center's physical space, rethought the organization's cultural context and expanded the scope of contemporary art presentation in our city.

2011 EXHIBITIONS + PROJECTS

FIRST FLOOR

VERA MERCER: STILL LIFES

Another Nebraska: Nebraska Arts Council

Individual Artist Fellows

Jamie Burmeister: Message Matters

Keith Jacobshagen: A Golden Year

Bemis Gardens

13th Annual Art Auction and Exhibitions

UNDERGROUND

Dan Crane, Kenneth Adkins + Victoria Hoyt

2011 Bemis Center Regional Exhibition

Nicholas Bohac + Mike Roche: Nothing and Everything at Once

Leslie Diuguid: Power Tower

Kjell Peterson: From the Redwood Forests...

Golden Guts: Kim Reid Kuhn & Josh Powell

COMMISSIONS

Min | Day + FACT: Bemis Infoshop

James Woodfill: Research Library, Guardrail and Handrails, Signage

Michael Beitz: Picnic Table



2011 was a banner year for the Bemis Center Art Sales program, as transformative as it was successful. Not only did sales nearly double, we launched a new art management program that has proven invaluable for serious collectors. Art sales and art management work hand-in-hand to offer top-notch professional services in the growth and management of private and corporate collections. Much of our sales inventory comes from local, national and international artists who have chosen to back up their belief in the Bemis Center with generous donations. The sales of this work are reinvested back into the organization — a self-sustaining cycle of artists supporting artists.









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