

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**KENTUCKY MUSEUM  
OF ART AND CRAFT**

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## **Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft to Present *The 7 Borders*, an Exhibition Mapping Kentucky's Regional Identity**

### **The 7 Borders**

June 29 - September 1, 2013  
First and Second Floors  
Curated by Joey Yates

***The 7 Borders*** Features Works by Taylor Baldwin, Leticia Bajuyo, Hawkins Bolden, Denise Burge, Walter Blaine Early IV, Albertus Gorman, Rashid Johnson, Joel McDonald, Guy Mendes, Gary Monroe, Mark Moskowitz, Joel Ross, Claire Sherman, Peter Skvavra, Todd Smith, Greg Stimac, Tony Tasset, and Andrew Douglas Underwood

"I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game." Abraham Lincoln

**Louisville, KY, June 21, 2013-** The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (KMAC) to present *The 7 Borders*, an exhibition exploring artistic connections to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its seven border states - Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. With the unique distinction of being the only state in the nation with seven borders, Kentucky is positioned as a center for artists who have woven the narratives of this region into their work, examining shared histories and common threads. Taking a cue from 20th century regionalist painters like Grant Wood and Thomas Hart Benton, the artists in *The 7 Borders* investigate the concerns of a new regionalism and what it means to critically engage in a cultural, social, and political way with the surrounding landscape. Each of the artists represented is witness to varying views of the region focusing both on personal history and collective experience.

Kentucky began as an isolated county of Virginia separated from the eastern seaboard by the Appalachian mountain range. It was an area notoriously difficult to reach and on its admission to the United States of America it was regarded as the first western state. Geographically Kentucky is situated in the Upland South giving it equal historical claim as an eastern, western, northern, and southern state. The motto United We Stand Divided We Fall on Kentucky's seal and flag reflects the decision Kentucky made to remain neutral during the Civil War, but it can also serve as the context for an exhibition that places Kentucky as a central force in the American art scene.

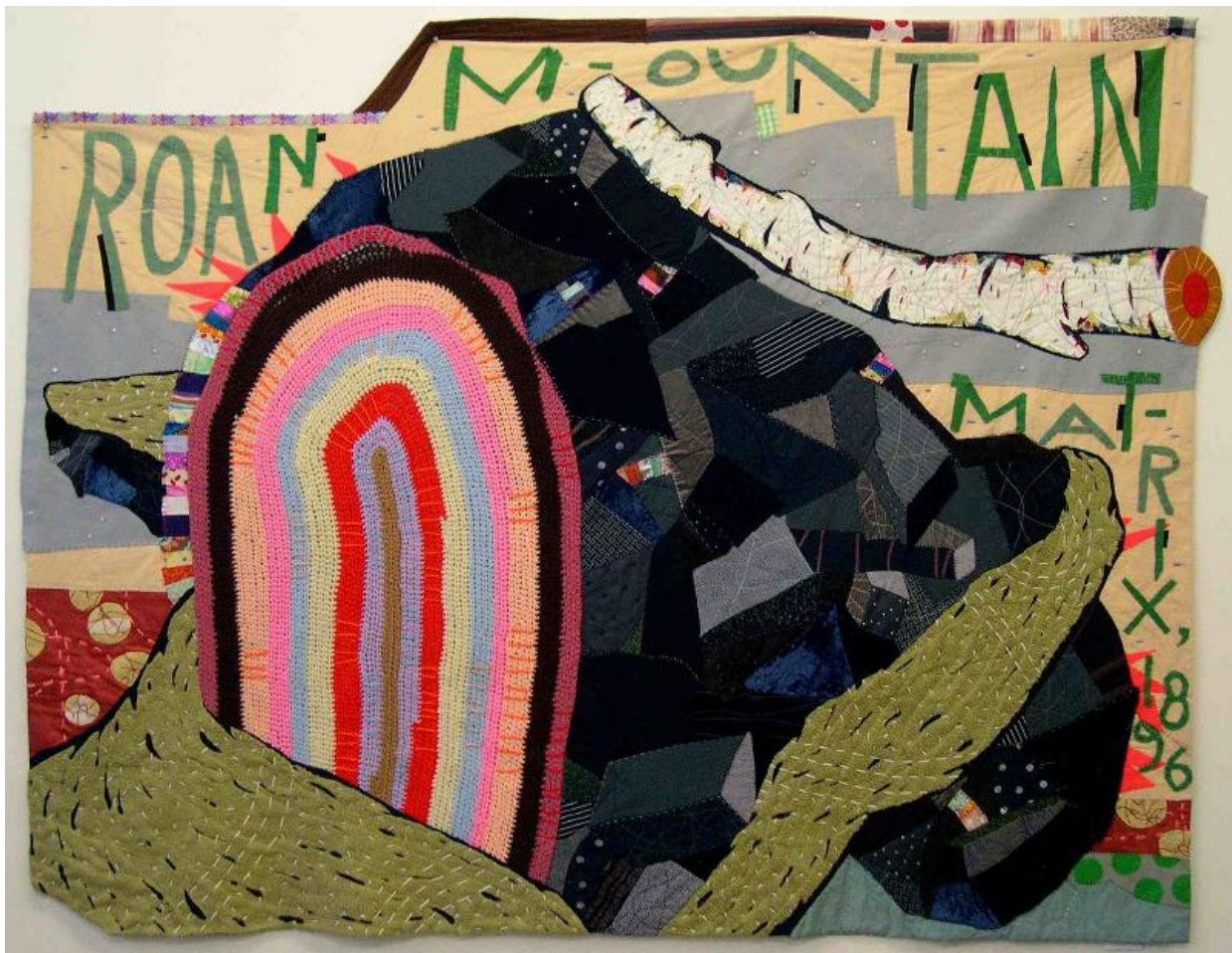
Highlighting artists who have found inspiration on the periphery of the major art markets on the east and west coasts *The 7 Borders* introduces ideas that are distinct to this region. Featuring both emerging and established artists, the exhibited works represent regional folk art, quilting, furniture design, photography, drawing, painting and sculpture. Each artist has created works that convey issues with deep resonance to Kentucky and our seven neighbors exploring themes from suburbia, urban culture, politics, seasonal change, and the region's ties to coal mining and tobacco farming.

The participating artists represent a diverse set of living conditions and artistic practices. From the studios, cities, farms, and neighborhoods in which they work and create, to the landscapes they depict, and the people portrayed, these artists often employ locally sourced materials or depend on subjects in their immediate surroundings to give vitality to a process that ties their work to the location and provides a

narrative about the importance of place. For some artists the suburban environment is an alien landscape best depicted as desolate, mundane and lifeless. Their critical take on the unsustainable nature of bedroom communities is often combined with support for a new urbanism that promotes less highways, more bike paths and a return to gathering places like cafes, bars and community gardens. The rural regions of The 7 Borders offer the craft practice of sourcing "the mountain way," a technique for gathering the nearest discarded materials for making quilts, furniture and other items from the local artisans. Artists from multiple disciplines marked as having achieved contemporaneity have adopted this process.

On Friday, June 28th, from 6pm to 8pm, KMAC presents a members-only preview of the exhibition. KMAC members will have a chance to see the exhibition before it debuts to the public and to learn about the artists and their work from Associate Curator Joey Yates and KMAC staff. Light refreshments will be served. The public opening of **The 7 Borders** will be on Saturday, June 29th from 10am - 5pm.

For visuals and more information, please contact: Julie Gross at Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft 502.589.0102 or [julieg@kmacmuseum.org](mailto:julieg@kmacmuseum.org).



Denise Burge. *Roan Mountain Matrix*, 2001, Oil on Canvas, 70 x 84 in.



Brian McCutcheon. Trailer Queen II, 2003. Weber Grill, speed parts, steel, automotive paint, 34 x 36 x 42 in.

### About the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft

The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft is located at 715 West Main Street in downtown Louisville and provides a platform to explore materials, techniques, and artistic expression. The Museum's goal is to educate and inspire while promoting a better understanding of art and craft through exhibitions, collaborations, outreach and the permanent collection. The Museum forges alliances within Kentucky, regionally, nationally, and internationally in order to participate in a broader conversation about art and its role in society. For more information, visit [www.kmacmuseum.org](http://www.kmacmuseum.org) or call (502) 589-0102.

**Hours:** Tues.- Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm. The museum is closed on Mondays.

**Admission:** \$6 for adults/free for 18 under; \$5 for military and senior citizens; free for students (with id), \$5 for groups of 10 or more.

This Exhibition is sponsored by:



Exhibitions and Public Programming are supported by:

The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft gratefully acknowledges the support of our Season Sponsor Brown-Forman and annual programming support from the Fund for the Arts and The Kentucky Arts Council.



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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