### The Bankers Trust Iowa Artists Collection

The Bankers Trust Iowa Artists Collection was created to promote and support the arts in Central Iowa. A vibrant arts scene strengthens our region, helps us express our values, builds bridges between cultures, and celebrates diversity. These 12 artists represent the immense talent in our communities and the diverse backgrounds of our citizens. Through supporting the arts, we help strengthen the economy, drive tourism, create social impact, and spark creativity and innovation.

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**Espana Pulled Apart**

James Ochs was born in Denver, Colo., in 1943. He gained print experience at Blacks Print Studio in New York City, and he worked in collage and paint at the Art Student League. Ochs graduated from Colorado State University with a BA in painting, before he was drafted into the Vietnam War. After his one-year tour, he began graduate studies at the University of Iowa; there he earned both his MA and MFA in printmaking and drawing, where he studied under Maricio Lasansky. Ochs’ work can be found in prestigious museum, corporate and university art collections in the United States, including the Des Moines Art Center, Muscatine Art Center, Farm Bureau, Library of Congress, Harvard College and Brown University. Featured in over 120 national, regional and solo shows nationwide, his works have received numerous awards.

**Checks for Checks**

Chris Vance is best known for his vibrant exterior wall murals throughout metro Des Moines. His painting is greatly influenced by graffiti and skateboard artists, and he believes that ideas are an “internal ingestion, and the art is the medium of the expression.” His exploration of scale is thorough, from creating small panel works that group together brilliantly, to large-scale acrylics. An Iowa State University graduate, he currently resides in Bondurant.

**Untitled**

Jordan Weber is a Des Moines based multi-disciplinary artist and activist who works predominantly with inner-city communities nationwide. His work has been exhibited across the country. Weber is best known for his deconstructed police vehicles turned community gardens/workout equipment and recontextualized abandoned structures. Awards and fellowships include Harvard LOEB candidate, A Blade of Grass fellowship NYC, Tanne Foundation award, Joan Mitchell nominee, USA Artist nominee, Des Moines Public Art Foundation fellowship, Iowa Arts Council Artist Fellowship (Creative Capital) and the African American Leadership Forum Fellowship.

**Tulip**

Molly Wood is a photographer based in Des Moines. Wood’s images explore botanicals as metaphors for the natural cycles of life, death, and rebirth, as well as the complexity and duality of experiences in life that can be part healing and part toxic. Wood’s images explore the interplay between modern technologies and art history. Using recent digital advances in photography, all images in this series are styled using only natural window light with traditional Dutch still life paintings in mind. She creates portraits of these botanicals in formal, sacred spaces, often at an intensely intimate distance, and then presents these vignettes as large-scale color photographs in order to invite the viewer into her myopic examination of the world at ten times the size of real life.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Ruins**

Christopher Chiavetta
Oil and Acrylic Painting

Christopher Chiavetta is a visual artist who lives and works in Des Moines. Originally from Rochester, NY, he attended the Boston School of the Museum of Fine Arts and graduated with a Film Studies degree from Georgia State University. As seen in Ruins, Chiavetta creates abstract paintings that navigate our multilayered environment and portray it as primordial, manufactured, and increasingly virtual. He has lived in Boston, Atlanta, Honolulu and Nagoya, Japan.

**Hergest Ridge**

Catherine Dreiss
Woodcut Print

Catherine Dreiss is a Des Moines-based printmaker who works almost exclusively with woodcuts based on photographs and appropriated patterns. In addition to their large scale, the process of creating her prints is surprising. Although they seem to conforms to the long tradition of woodcuts, they are actually highly manipulated computer images that are transferred to plywood. Only at that point does the process follow the time and labor intensive path that would be recognized by a traditional woodcut artist. All are hand-carved and printed in a succession of plates in the manner known as reduction prints. All are printed using oil-based inks on Stonehenge paper, on either a Charles Brand or Takach etching press. Dreiss earned a BA in Art History from Mount Holyoke College (South Hadley, MA) and an MFA in Printmaking from Cranbrook Academy (Bloomfield Hills, MI).

**Wexford Morning**

Fred Easker
Giclee Print

Fred Easker has been painting full time since 1994. Prior to becoming an artist, he was a teacher, museum educator, and director of a historic house museum, which was completely renovated under his guidance. Easker’s landscapes offer an extraordinary view into the ordinary; they draw on familiar scenes from the back roads of his native eastern Iowa, exploring both aesthetics and the character of the place, and offering a keen meditation on the power, vulnerability and eloquence of the land. He holds a BA and MA in Art Education from the University of Iowa, and among his awards are the Friend of the Arts Award from Marion Fine Arts Council in 1993, and an Arts/NEA Regional Visual Arts Fellowship in 1997. Easker resides in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Viridian**

Kim Hutchison
Mixed Media on Panel

Kim Hutchison looks to establish connections between the past and present in her artwork. As an artist, she has become more focused on the formal qualities of the materials and compositions. In turn, the artwork’s relation to the passage of time becomes more complex and abstract. Her work traditionally involves the union of stitching, fabric, paint, and collage, guided by found and discarded objects still bearing the marks of the anonymous hands of their maker. These works focus on elements of handiwork such as crochet, quilt pieces, and sewing patterns, traditionally seen as a woman’s household work. By emphasizing form and materiality, she seeks to let these elements reinvent their own context. Free of a specific narrative, these works instead invite the viewer to accept the found objects on their own terms. These pieces are about creating for the sake of creation, allowing the past to emerge as a site of present possibilities.

**Downtown Des Moines**

James Navarro
Acrylic Painting

James Navarro, a Des Moines-based artist, painted Downtown Des Moines after being inspired by the beautiful downtown skyline. As an artist, he captures Des Moines’ rich history and beautiful scenes that often go unnoticed from the city’s day-to-day.

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**All That Jazz**

Annick Ibsen
Mixed Media

Annick Ibsen is a sculptor and painter. She was born in Paris and moved to Des Moines 14 years ago, prior to which she experienced a breadth of cultures living in Libya, Indonesia, Hong Kong, London and India. She came to the medium of clay after decades of figurative painting and in the past ten years, the search for plasticity and the sculptural form became her focus. Her neo-cubist sculptures displace the viewer’s expectations to unveil the actual. In her search for realism, she also establishes connections between figurative and sculptural art forms with mixed media paintings that explore negative space.

**Last of Summer**

Mary Muller
Pastel on Paper

Mary Muller is a Des Moines artist who paints portraits and landscapes. Her portraits hang in Drake University Law School and Iowa State University, as well as in countless business and private collections nationally. Her credentials include Master Pastellist of the Pastel Society of America, and Signature Member both of the Portrait Society of America and the Transparent Watercolor Society. She is a former instructor at the Des Moines Art Center and teaches regularly in her studio. Her focus is representational art and the way light hits form.

**Untitled**

Mirza Kudic
Photograph

When asked, Mirza modestly describes himself as an immigrant, a veteran, and an American. Mirza immigrated with his parents to the United States from Bosnia and Herzegovina in late 1996 when he was about 14. Mirza joined the Army in 2003 and believes he may have been “the first Bosnian kid who joined the U.S. Army as a full-time active duty soldier.” Mirza is recognized nationally for his photos of Des Moines, including his featured piece, “Untitled.”

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