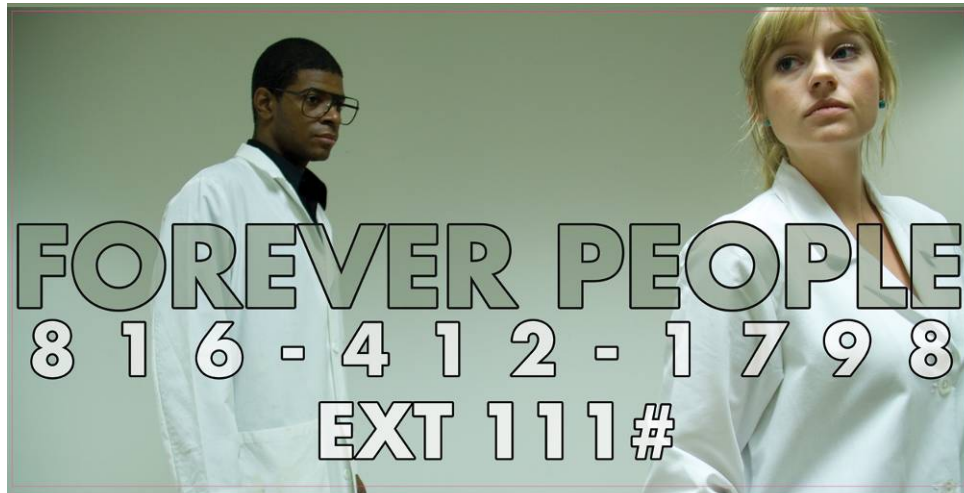
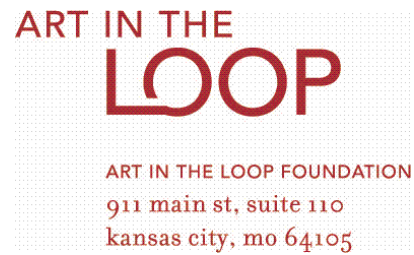


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For Immediate Release
*print quality image available



**Now Showing on Art in the Loop's ARTwall:
Forever People by Ascot J. Smith**

Call to hear the art

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (February 24, 2009) – Art in the Loop is pleased to announce the newest art commission for the ARTwall, *Forever People* by artist, Ascot J. Smith. The ARTwall is a custom designed billboard structure that exhibits super-sized contemporary art at 13th and Grand Streets in downtown Kansas City.

Forever People by Ascot Smith is set in the year 2200. A nameless couple sends recorded messages into the past hoping to prevent a dystopian future. However, the two begin to use the recording to confess their struggles of sustaining a relationship amid holographic love affairs and android rivalries.

Kansas City based artist, Ascot J. Smith is multimedia artist and writer who earned a BFA degree in photography and new media from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2005. His ARTwall, titled *Forever People*, includes a fictional story that he presents in a series of audio story episodes. Viewers are encouraged to call the free phone number listed on the ARTwall billboard to hear the audio recordings. A new audio message episode will be updated every-other-Monday and will run for nine months. The next episode will post on Monday, March 15th.

Call to hear the art: To listen to *Forever People* dial the number (816-412-1798) then enter the three digit code (111) followed by the pound (#) sign.

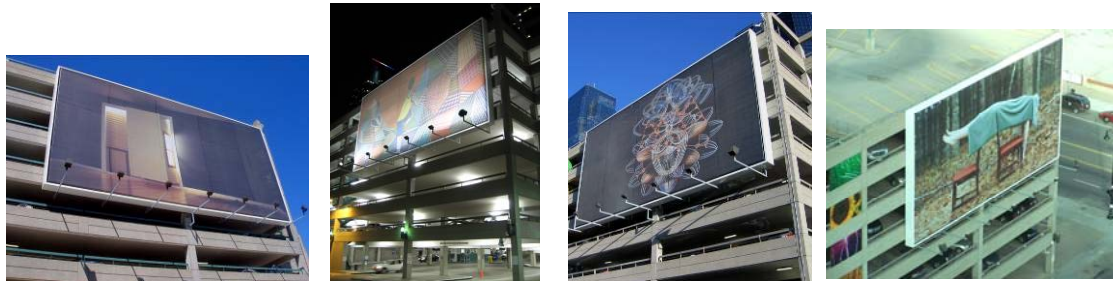
Ascot J. Smith lives and works in Kansas City and has exhibited his work at the H&R Block Art Space, the Paragraph Gallery and the Kansas City Filmmaker's Jubilee. Smith also writes freelance for Review

magazine, held a residency with the Urban Culture Project (2006) and a recipient of the ArtsKC Fund inspiration grant (2008). Smith describes his work as an “interest in the banal, the mundane, and the pedestrian, contrasted with the hyper-sensational and over-stimulated pop culture that unifies this generation.

Art in the Loop’s ARTwall:

Art in the Loop is a non-profit organization (launched in 2004) dedicated to commissioning public art for Downtown Kansas City, Mo. The ARTwall is installed on the south-facing side of the Town Pavilion Parking Garage at 13th and Grand, and displays art as 36’ x 72’ digital prints on vinyl mesh. This is the ARTwall’s fifth image installation, following *Eros & Thanatos* by artist Cortney Andrews.

The ARTwall is a project of the Art in the Loop Foundation, a partnership of the Downtown Council of Kansas City, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the Kansas City Art Institute, and the Kansas City Municipal Art Commission. The ARTwall is funded by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation with additional support from Copaken White and Blitt.



IMAGES: Past art commissions on Art in the Loop’s ARTwall (from left to right):
Ross Sawyers’ *Blue Room* (2006), Marcus Cain’s *Social Climber* (2007),
Amy Meyer’s *Liquid* (2008), Cortney Andrews’ *Eros & Thanatos* (2009).

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