

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT: Jennifer Gaby 314.535.0770 ext. 215****CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM ST. LOUIS PRESENTS*****Selections from the Contemporary's Flat Files*****June 30 – August 20, 2006**

ST. LOUIS (APRIL 28, 2006) – In an interest to make the wide-scope talent of Midwest artists more visible and accessible, the Contemporary is thrilled to launch a new program: Contemporary's Flat Files. In honor of this new program, the contemporary is pleased to present an exhibition centering around this work, *Selections from the Contemporary Flat Files*. This exhibition will introduce new work by both familiar and unknown artists, as well as, work by artists who do not usually work on a small-scale or on paper.

The Flat Files will be created through an open invitation to artists residing in the State of Missouri and the metro east section of Illinois including Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties. Students in their final year of study are eligible to apply. Artists are asked to submit small works on paper that will be accessible to the public in flat file drawers at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Selections from these submissions will be exhibited in our gallery and change throughout the duration of our exhibition. A permanent set of Flat Files featuring artist work will be available in the Contemporary's Dana Brown Charitable Education Resource Center and serve as a resource to artists, curators, collectors, critics, dealers, and the general public.

In part inspired by the success of the Flat File program at the Pierogi Gallery in Brooklyn—where the work of more than 700 artists is filed—the Contemporary is similarly interested in introducing work of more artists to a wider public than is possible solely through our exhibition program. A permanent set of flat files will be available at the Contemporary and serve as a resource to artists, curators, collectors, critics, dealers, and the general public. *Selections from the Contemporary's Flat Files* will provide an ever-changing and interactive way of experiencing art and showcase the undiscovered talent working in the Midwest.

Support for this exhibition is provided by the Whitaker Foundation, Regional Arts Commission, Missouri Arts Council, Arts & Education Council, and Friends and Members of the Contemporary, with in-kind support from Chase Park Plaza Hotel. This exhibition will be curated by Andrea Green, Curatorial Assistant at the Contemporary.

For more information please visit the Contemporary's website at www.contemporarystl.org.

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis has grown to become one of the country's most important contemporary art museums and is dedicated to exhibiting the visual arts and artists of our time and to producing nationally recognized education programs. As a non-collecting institution, the Museum focuses its efforts on showing six to eight exhibitions a year, featuring local, national and international, well-known and "newly established" artists working in all types of media. In 2003, the Contemporary opened a new 27,200 square-foot space designed by Brad Cloepfil.