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**For Immediate Release**

**ArtsKC Awards 2012 Featured Visual Artist Selected**  
***Local artist Caleb McCandless selected to commission artwork for business and individual ArtsKC Award winners***

**Kansas City Metro** (Date) — ArtsKC - The Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City is proud to announce the 2012 ArtsKC Awards featured visual artist, Caleb McCandless. McCandless was selected from a group of local artists to create nine works of art which will be presented to businesses and volunteers during the ArtsKC Awards Luncheon on January 27, 2012 at Starlight Theatre's Enclosed Stage. McCandless' work is a unique blend of painting and sculpture created through a one of a kind technique.

McCandless first became connected to the Arts Council in 2007 through the organization's *Now Showing* program. Developed to introduce businesses to the work of local artists, the *Now Showing* program helped Caleb exhibit his work throughout the Kansas City area, giving him much needed visibility and helping him to begin his career. This will be the first commission for McCandless, who says, "This has allowed me to become a full-time artist, which may not have been possible without the Arts Council."

"Artists are entrepreneurs, and in the true entrepreneurial spirit of Kansas City, the Arts Council strives to give them the tools and opportunities they need to grow their business," says Harlan Brownlee, Arts Council President and CEO. "The arts are an economic engine in our community, and that is not limited to the larger theatres and museums. As artists grow their businesses they can contribute even more to the economic vitality of our region."

McCandless's work is best described as sculptured painting. Using a technique he developed after years of experimenting with magnets, McCandless manipulates tiny steel filings into delicate lace-like projections and freezes them in space. The forms are often painted in bright colors, resembling otherworldly flowers, sea anemones, or solar flares. For more information about Caleb McCandless' work, please visit <http://www.calebmccandless.com/>.

The ArtsKC Awards, now in its' eighth year, is attended by more than 500 metropolitan area business and arts professionals. Featuring some of the area's best visual and performing arts talent, the luncheon is a wonderful and unique opportunity to honor businesses and individuals for their remarkable commitment to the Kansas City arts community. Guests of the 2012 ArtsKC Awards luncheon will have the opportunity to view McCandless's work in the Helzberg Diamonds VIP Club. For more information about the ArtsKC Awards, please visit [www.ArtsKC.org/artskcawards.aspx](http://www.ArtsKC.org/artskcawards.aspx).

**About the ArtsKC - Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City:**

The Arts Council advances and supports the arts community for the benefit of the Kansas City region.

The goals are achieved through various programs and services which focus on three primary strategies:

- Increased funding for the arts and cultural initiatives from diversified and sustainable sources.
- Increasing community awareness of the arts and culture and the impact on quality of life issues in our community.
- Establishing the arts as an integral part of economic development and other key civic and business initiatives.

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