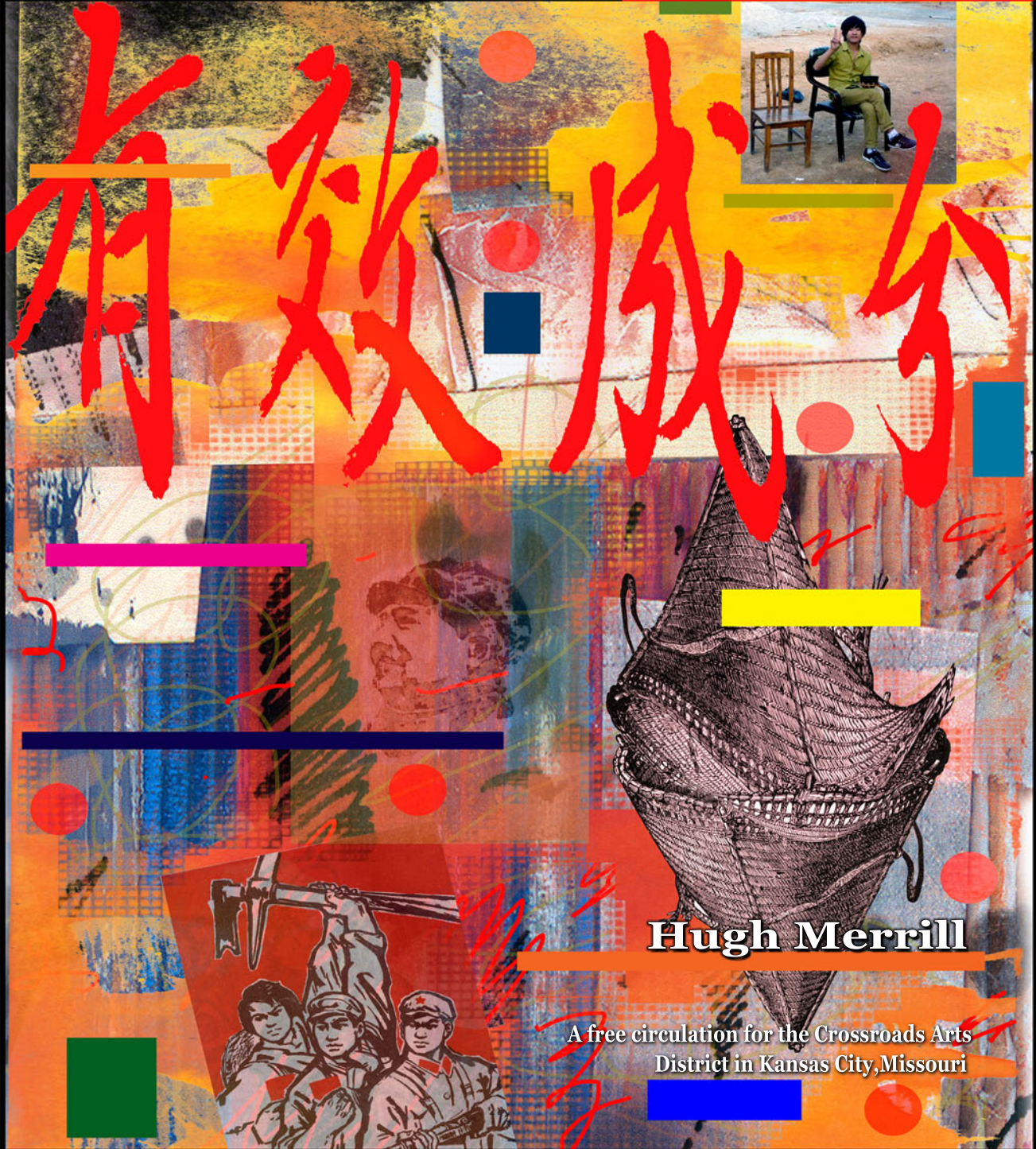


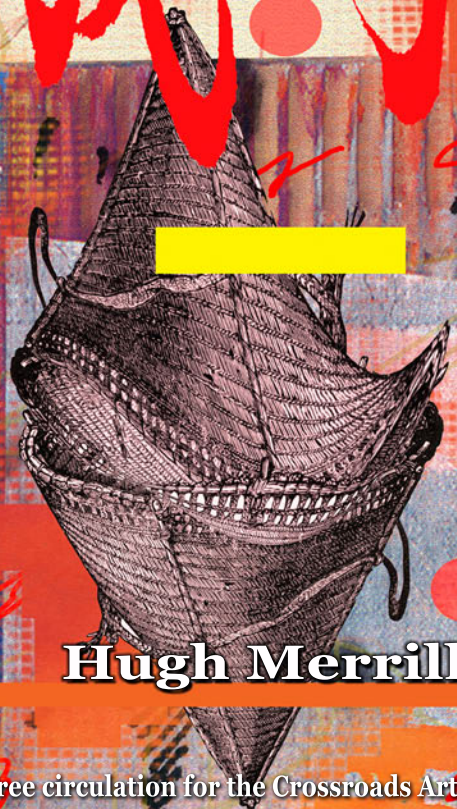
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Crossroads

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Hugh Merrill

A free circulation for the Crossroads Arts  
District in Kansas City, Missouri



# Hugh Merrill

Todd Weiner Gallery

January 4 - February 26, 2013

Hugh Merrill is an accomplished multifaceted person who serves as an artist, printmaker, educator, published writer, and founder of the Chameleon Arts Agency. Presently a tenured professor at the Kansas City Art Institute in the Printmaking/Painting department, Merrill has a Bachelors of Fine Art from Maryland Institute College of Art along with a Masters of Fine Art from Yale University. He has exhibited internationally in such institutions as the Museum of Modern Art, the Harvard Art Museums, the Cranbrook Museum and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, to name a few. Merrill has taught and lectured at over 75 universities and schools worldwide, to say he has a passion for academia is truly an understatement. His education-centric background suggests his decision to found the non-profit arts agency Chameleon arts & youth development, CAYD.

Chameleon's mission commits to inspiring and fostering an interdisciplinary artistic community of racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity to serve at-risk youth from urban neighborhoods, artists and the community. It works towards solving social, educational and community difficulties through youth development programs that produce community artworks. CAYD programs provide a combination of arts and activities with the purpose to strengthen academic skills for at-risk youth. For more information Hugh Merrill directs inquiries to the new website, [chameleon-ayd.org](http://chameleon-ayd.org).

Chameleon and Merrill were invited to the Guanlan Print Base in Shenzhen China for a six-week residency to organize art workshops at the Xingzhi Elementary School. He worked on community arts actions in public and in parks as well. The creative community embraced Merrill's presence in the school as well as in a communal capacity.

Merrill's residency in China is the catalyst for the exhibition Made in China at the Todd Weiner Gallery. In describing his experiences in China, Merrill explains his process for this exhibit. His collection of drawings, prints, and photographs taken while in Shenzhen were brought back to Kansas City to be merged with his wealth of experiences and information about the history of contemporary China. Merrill then scans the drawings and photos into the com-



Hugh Merrill with president of Guanlan Camera Club

puter, works on them, prints them out and then hand draws, sands, and scrapes the image to rework it into a true mixed media print. He uses a number of steps from hand to computer in order to develop a collage that encompasses his memories.

Another central element to the Made in China exhibit is the calligraphic series of prints. In this series Hugh Merrill explores the connection between the two countries, finding the relationship primarily economic, recognizing that American's wear most





Chameleon educational workshop Shenzhen Elementary School



Elementary school students with Barbie backpacks

items made in China. With this print series he explores Chinese tradition, through calligraphy, using American commercial slogans. Merrill explains, "It's an ironic off set in what you expect calligraphy to say, usually something meaningful, like a poem, when the saying here is something that comes off of a t-shirt." The slogans include: Ultra Thin, Wash in Cold Water, Whitening protection, and many other sayings found on products. This Made in China exhibit at the Todd Weiner Gallery investigates themes involving contemporary China and America along with translating

personal memories and experiences Hugh Merrill received during his residency. He has also invited artists including Steve Pistone, Barry Osbourn, Jim Leedy, Carla Steck, Travis Pratt, and Miguel Rivera to create art in reference to his recent trip to China under the theme made in China. In the Made in China exhibit, Hugh Merrill's unique perspective and thorough process provides the audience with bright visual stimulation along with ironic commentary on international relations.



Photo for the community arts project Object/Subject: photographs of the other

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## Crossroads Gallery Listings

*19 Below - 5 W 19th Street*

*2010 Gallery - 2010 Main Street*

*Apex Gallery - 1819 Wyandotte Street*

*Archival Designs - 2014 Main*

*Birdie's - 116 W 18th Street*

*Jones Gallery - 1717 Walnut Street*

*Blue Gallery - 118 Southwest Boulevard*

*Belger Arts Center - 2100 Walnut Street*

*Buttonwood Art Space - 3013 Main Street*

*Byron Cohen Gallery - 2020 Baltimore Ave.*

*The City Arts Project - 2015 Campbell Street*

*Grand Arts - 1819 Grand Avenue*

*KCAI Crossroads - 1908 Main Street*

*Kemper at the Crossroads - 33 W 19th Street*

*The KeyHole Gallery - 1903 Wyandotte Street*

*The Late Show Gallery - 1600 Cherry Street*

*Leedy-Voukos Art Center - 2012*

*Baltimore Ave.*

*Mildred's Coffeehouse - 1821 Wyandotte St*

*Red Star Studios - 2100 Walnut Street*

*Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art - 2004  
Baltimore Ave.*

*Slap-n-Tickle Gallery - 508 E. 18th Street*

*Studio B - 2016 Main Street*

*Todd Weiner Gallery - 115 W. 18th Street*

*Weinberger Fine Art - 1800 Baltimore Ave.*

*Windhorse Gallery - 1717 Wyandotte Sree*

