



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

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For Immediate Release

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***Wester: Works on Paper from the Konza Prairie* by Kansas Artist Erin Wiersma for February and March First Friday at Mid-America Arts Alliance**



Erin Wiersma works on the Konza Prairie Biological Station, 2017. Photo by David Mayes; Courtesy of the artist.



Erin Wiersma, *Transect 172: KBPS (Hovering Islands)* 2018, 2018; char on paper, 55 x 84 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

(Kansas City, MO) Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) is pleased to present *Wester: Works on Paper from the Konza Prairie* by artist Erin Wiersma of Manhattan, Kansas, for First Friday February 1 and March 1 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at 2018 Baltimore in Kansas City’s Crossroads Arts District.

Wiersma makes her work by dragging pieces of paper—sometimes loose-leaf, sometimes mounted on a tube—along the floor of burned sections of the Konza Prairie. The resulting pieces—part collaboration with nature, part process art, part record of a performance—act as a document of Wiersma’s travels through the fields.

“When I go out to work in the prairie it is a very ceremonious experience. The whole event is sacred and meditative for me,” she says. “I typically pass through a gated section housing a herd of bison that dwell within these lands and graze. At one time Native Americans thrived on the land alongside great herds of bison. Burning was used as a method to herd the bison to specific areas for hunting, and also to rejuvenate the soil. I cannot be on this land without thinking of the people and animals that live here, both past and present.”

In addition to approximately ten works on paper, the exhibition includes a short video of Wiersma making her work out in the field. *Wester* samples from a [larger series](#) (forty-plus works) of Wiersma’s previous works. It will be on view for First Friday February 1 and March 1 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in M-AAA’s Culture Lab, as well as the downstairs convening space. Gallery hours for First Fridays and by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please contact communications@maaa.org.

Erin Wiersma is represented by [Robischon Gallery](#) in Denver, Colorado.

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About Mid-America Arts Alliance

Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) strengthens and supports artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout our region and beyond. We are especially committed to enriching the cultural life of historically underserved communities by providing high quality, meaningful, and accessible arts and culture programs and services. We believe in more art for more people. Additional information about M-AAA is available at www.maaa.org.

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