

Allan McCollum: *The Topographical Model Donation Project for One Hundred and Twenty Historical Society Museums in Kansas and Missouri*



Allan McCollum. *Topographical models of Kansas and Missouri*. Kansas: 4 x 11 x 27 inches; Missouri: 3 x 23 x 17 inches. 2003. Cast Hydrostone, white alkyd primer.

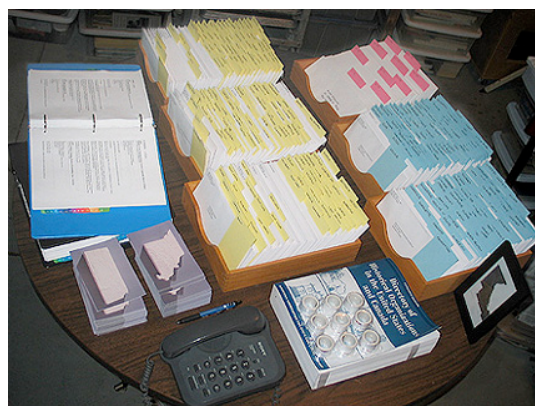
souri, offering to donate them as “blanks,” to be painted or otherwise embellished by their staffs in whatever ways suited their particular program needs. Over 120 museums accepted the gifts. The artist delivered the 120 models himself, during the summer of 2003, in a rented van.

The project was a collaboration with the Grand Arts gallery in Kansas City, a nonprofit workshop and exhibition space. The cost for the project was around \$20,000, plus hundreds of hours of Grand Arts staff time making the casts, and hundreds of hours of the staff’s and the artist’s time corresponding and keeping in contact with all the regional museums. It took the artist and his assistant one complete month to make the actual deliveries in person.

Allan McCollum created a series of three-dimensional, topographical relief models of the two states of Kansas and Missouri, using a computer numerically controlled routing machine that was programmed with geographic information systems data supplied by the U.S. government.

From these models he produced two rubber molds, from which he cast a large number of topographical models from a mixture of plaster and cement, each of which he painted with a white primer.

McCollum then mailed letters to over 250 small, regional historical society museums throughout Kansas and Missouri,



McCollum's office: mailing letters to 250 historical societies in Kansas and Missouri, offering to donate topographical models.