

The Art of Comparison

*From the perspective of visitors of Rwanda's Ivuka Arts Center
and Kansas City's First Friday Galleries*

**Turn down a narrow street
Looked upon skeptically as foreign intruders
Squeeze between homes muddled together
Energy of spontaneity and anticipation
Bounce along the bumpy road**

*Carefully choose an outfit to impress
Exhilaration of the first Friday of the month.
Parking is at a premium
Dodging oblivious pedestrians at the crosswalk
Beats from the DJ heard blocks away*

**A treacherous walkway to reach Ivuka Arts Center
Stunned with awe at the beauty of a mountainous view
Enter a world of vibrant color
Every inch of every wall filled with mixed media inspiration
Smiles on all faces**

*Saturated sidewalks of the Crossroads
Search for the newest, hippest exhibit
Industrial architecture of KC's urban landscape is dynamic
Aroma of fried food fills the air
Local painters, photographers, ceramicists, performance artists*

**Two pairs of eyes peering over the top of a fence
Neighboring children giggle and point
New friends, an artist and a vision
In-progress work, finalized, amateur, professional**

*Kansas City
City of Fountains*

**Kigali
Land of a thousand hills**

Both: The Art of Comparison