

By [Tom King](#) January 27, 2011

<http://ereview.org/2011/01/27/fast-portraits/>

The Lawrence Report — From December 2010, for January 2011

Rocket number three

One of the 2010 Rocket Grants was awarded to the team of performance artist Leralee Whittle and musician Paul Sprawl for *WorkArtOut*, which Whittle describes as "a contemporary dance performance featuring video, dance and live music, and offering some creative alternatives to the funny, strange ways people act when they enter sports work-out facilities." They are one of three artist teams to earn this award in its initial round. (Applications for the second round are in progress now.)



Leralee Whittle and Paul Sprawl, still from "3 in White," video, 2010. Image: courtesy of Whittle.

In *3 in White*, says Whittle, "The combination of white hooded sweatsuits and Paul Sprawl's haunting music brought out the cultish quality of being part of a

sports team or team affiliation as a fan."

Whittle and Sprawl, with performers Marianne Evans-Lombe, Annie Wilsey, and Anne Bruce, staged *WorkArtOut* in November 2010 at the Community Building in Lawrence.

"The artists in the audience liked *WorkArtOut* very much because of its experimental nature," Whittle says. "The general audience response was favorable. The show was too outlandish or just plain too creative for the contingency used to overly sincere work lacking in irony, or for those who just came out to see their friends."



Leralee Whittle and Paul Sprawl, still from "Curves," video. Image: courtesy of Whittle.

Whittle and Sprawl journey to the Texas desert next month to work on *Stranger Friend*, an exploration of human relationships and the tentative boundaries between dreams and waking life.