



## **WE DESIGN SOUND: KIREI ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH AKUART**

*Advancing visual soundscape solutions for commercial environments, Kirei becomes exclusive AKUART distributor in North America region*

**Solana Beach, CA—August 13, 2020—**Kirei, a provider of innovative eco-friendly design materials for commercial interiors, is pleased to announce their exclusive North American distribution partnership with AKUART, a leader in creating infinitely customizable framed acoustic design elements with an easily changeable canvas. Joining forces in their shared mission of creating spaces that sound as great as they look, the new partnership marks AKUART's first distribution point in the North America region, providing increased accessibility for architects and designers searching for customizable, eco-friendly visual soundscape solutions.

"The incredible synchronicity between AKUART and Kirei lies in our shared vision and mission of providing sustainably-driven acoustic solutions that prioritize beauty and functionality," says John Stein, President, Kirei. "We know many spaces can have acoustic issues while needing great design solutions. These rooms can benefit from strategically placing printed AKUART acoustic absorbers as wall art, wayfinding signage, room partitions and interior accents. Our partnership is providing architects and designers with increased ease in crafting the sound of a space while using art, color and graphics in new ways."

Made from sustainable materials, AKUART's four framed acoustic design elements—'On The Wall' acoustic wall panels; 'Hang With Me' suspended acoustic panels; 'Stand By Me' free standing acoustic wall screens; and 'Shelter Me' acoustic desk screens—allow designers to select from a variety of art, including solid colors (with color matching available), pre-existing art, or custom images. Each canvas is machine washable, bleach-cleanable and replaceable. The absorber beneath the canvas is a high NRC (.9), low VOC, Class A fire treated sound absorbing PET panel placed within a durable, coated aluminum frame. The frames are available in four standard colors or the option to specify a custom color, as well a variety of sizes. All pre-existing art or custom images are printed at 600 DPI.

"In Kirei, we have found the perfect partner for introducing AKUART to the North American market," says Bjørn Berthelsen, CEO, AKUART. "We have a collective ambition to offer extraordinary acoustic solutions that provide true added value to the end-user. AKUART has succeeded in becoming a favorite amongst architects and designers in Scandinavia, providing endless design freedom with a high degree of flexibility. Our goal is to provide the same value in North America through Kirei."

The complete AKUART product line includes:

**On The Wall:** Giving designers the complete freedom to make their own designs, On The Wall is a high performance, fully customizable wall absorber that prevents unwanted sound from bouncing off the walls. These acoustic wall art panels are as flexible as they are functional, with the replaceable printed canvas being a great way to keep spaces fresh.

**Hang With Me:** Suspended acoustic art panels with a replaceable printed canvas on both the front and backsides, Hang With Me panels are characterized by combining high acoustic

functionality with a simple but striking graphical composition. Since the panels can be configured to fit the needs of any interior space, Hang With Me is a natural choice when creating acoustic zones in open workplaces.

**Stand By Me:** A customizable, free-standing acoustic floor screen that keeps inhabitants safe and sound from noisy environments, Stand By Me provides strategic design solutions for existing layout constraints.

**Shelter Me:** Providing a shield from the hustle of everyday office life, fully-customizable Shelter Me desk screens provide desk workers with acoustic comfort without sacrificing aesthetics.

Providing a variety of design opportunities for workplace, education, hospitality, worship, retail and healthcare environments, AKUART's collection of highly customizable framed acoustic art also pairs well with Kirei's existing EchoPanel product line—a decorative, acoustically absorbent panel with a felt-like finish, made from 100% PET plastic—to yield specialized applications that cater to projects' unique acoustic requirements.

For more information on AKUART by Kirei, please visit: <https://kireiusa.com/acoustic-solutions/akuart>.

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### **About Kirei**

Since 2002, Kirei has brought beautiful, sustainable and functional design elements to interior designers, architects and end users across North America. Kirei continues its mission to “Inspire a Beautiful World” through a design ethos based on elegant and sustainable design. To date, that intrepid focus has resulted in diverting over 250 million plastic bottles from landfills, giving each bottle renewed purpose as a new design material. This mission has also provided designers with unique products and acoustic solutions to help design great spaces to live, work and play. As such, Kirei distributes EchoPanel and AKUART, decorative and functional designer acoustic products that give designers the visual and acoustic tools to create productive, healthy interiors.

The visually-dynamic and versatile EchoPanel collection of wall and ceiling panels, systems, tiles and partitions are available in standard or custom options to address various acoustic needs in commercial, retail, hospitality, healthcare and education environments. EchoPanel is manufactured by Woven Image, responsibly sourced and made from recycled materials to qualify for LEED credits and other green building or sustainability certifications and is recyclable at the end of life.

In addition, Kirei is the exclusive North American distributor of AKUART, a leader in creating infinitely customizable framed acoustic design elements with an easily changeable canvas. Made from sustainable materials and advancing visual soundscape solutions, AKUART's four framed acoustic design elements —‘On The Wall’ acoustic wall panels; ‘Hang With Me’ suspended acoustic panels; ‘Stand By Me’ free standing acoustic wall screens; and ‘Shelter Me’ acoustic desk screens—allow designers to select from a variety of art or custom imagery. Each canvas is machine washable, bleach-cleanable and replaceable.

### **About AKUART**

AKUART was founded in 2006 in Copenhagen Denmark with the ambition to create extraordinary acoustic solutions with a strong visual appeal. This is still the company's main aspiration today. Through a strong dedication to functionality and aesthetics AKUART strives to make good acoustic design available to the largest possible audience. What started out as acoustic wall art with a changeable printed canvas has now developed into a full range of customizable acoustic products with an extensive collection of artwork including photography, art, graphics, colors, textures, signage and more. AKUART will keep on

seeking new and innovative ways to create acoustic solutions by collaborating with some of the best creative thinkers to explore the intelligent use of acoustics in modern-day architecture.