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**Charlotte Street Foundation Presents
THE STENCH OF ROTTING FLOWERS**

Curated by 2013-14 Curator-in-Residence Danny Orendorff

Exhibition of labor-intensive and decorative artworks addresses themes of sorrow, grief, and heartbreak



Elijah Burgher, "Bachelor machine, from behind and below," 2013, acrylic on canvas drop cloth; Jenny Kendler, "New Ways to See I & II," 2013, vintage composite marble & wood busts, glue, archivally preserved lichen; Ashley Thomas, "Book," 2013, graphite on paper.

EXHIBITION: *The Stench of Rotting Flowers*

OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, April 19, 6-9pm, with performance by Hope Esser

GALLERY TALK: Saturday, May 17, 2-4pm, with curator and artists Marie Bannerot McInerney, Rain Harris, Peregrine Honig, Jeff Tackett

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROGRAM: Saturday, May 3, 2-5pm, "Every Poem is a Coat of Arms," a melodramatic poetry workshop by Daviel Shy

LOCATION: la Esquina / 1000 W. 25th St., Kansas City, MO 64108

EXHIBITION RUNS: April 19-June 6, 2014

GALLERY HOURS: Wed, Fri, Sat 12-5pm; Thurs 11am-6pm

Featured artists: [Marie Bannerot McInerney](#) (Kansas City, MO); [Elijah Burgher](#) (Chicago, IL); [Adrain Chesser](#) (Seattle, WA); [Hope Esser](#) (Chicago, IL); [Edie Fake](#) (Chicago, IL); [Rain Harris](#) (Kansas City, MO); [Jesse Harrod](#) (Richmond, VA); [Peregrine Honig](#) (Kansas City, MO); [Jenny Kendler](#) (Chicago, IL); [Daviel Shy](#) (Chicago, IL); [Jeff Tackett](#) (Kansas City, MO); [Ashley Thomas](#) (Chicago, IL); and [Michael Velliquette](#) (Madison, WI)

Opening at Charlotte Street Foundation's la Esquina gallery April 19, 2014, ***The Stench of Rotting Flowers*** features 13 contemporary artists from around the nation whose labor-intensive and decorative artworks address and provoke such big feelings as sorrow, grief, and heartbreak. Central to the exhibition's interests are secular approaches to bereavement by feminist and queer artists, including practices that respond to

death and loss through ritualistic, repetitive, nature-based, and often high-camp art practices.

Organized by 2013-14 Charlotte Street Foundation curator-in-residence Danny Orendorff, **The Stench of Rotting Flowers** is equal parts artifice and ache, as sincere as it is satiric.

Chicago-based artist **Hope Esser** will present a live version of her video work “For Health and Strength” at the exhibition’s opening, a durational performance featuring the artist and her sister consuming copious amounts of red wine in a ritualistic act of remembrance and forgetting.



Hope Esser “For Health & Strength,” 2011, video still.

The exhibition will include such highlights as “Bachelor Machine” by Chicago artist **Elijah Burgher**, whose work currently appears in the Whitney Biennial. This dropcloth painting was produced as part of Burgher’s modified occultist practice of sigil magic. Kansas City artist **Peregrine Honig** will premiere a new floral wreath painting that doubles as an ornate backdrop for the indulgent taking of ‘selfies.’ **Marie Bannerot McInerney**, who recently relocated to Kansas City from St. Louis, will present a site-specific installation built from the saran-wrapped remainders of an unknown individual’s life. **Jesse Harod**, based in Richmond, VA, will debut her latest oversized floral artwork—an 8’x8’x8’ replica of a lavender tissue box, decoratively outfitted with disassembled wedding dresses.

FREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

On May 3, 2-5pm, Chicago artist **Daviel Shy** will travel to Kansas City to host a melodramatic poetry writing workshop and recital at la Esquina. Participants will be encouraged to translate breakups, anger, and bad habits into over-the-top poetic form.

On May 17, 2-4pm, Curator Danny Orendorff will host a gallery talk featuring exhibiting artists Marie Bannerot McInerney, Rain Harris, Peregrine Honig, and Jeff Tackett.

ABOUT CURATOR-IN-RESIDENCE DANNY ORENDORFF:

Recently heralded by Chicago Magazine as one of Chicago’s “Six Young Art Curators You Should Know,” Danny Orendorff has curated large-scale exhibitions for international contemporary art spaces, including *All Good Things Become Wild & Free* at Carthage College (Kenosha, WI), *Learning to Love You More* at MU Gallery (Eindhoven, The Netherlands), and *There is Always a Machine Between Us* at SF Camerawork Gallery (San Francisco, CA), who also hosted his Andy Warhol Foundation supported exhibition *Suggestions of a Life Being Lived*, co-curated with Adrienne Skye Roberts in 2010.

Orendorff is a contributing writer to *Art in America Online* and *Bad at Sports*, and has previously written for *NewCity Chicago*, *Camerawork Journal of Photographic Arts*, and *Shotgun Review*. Formerly the assistant director of the Renegade Craft Fair’s nationwide marketplaces of handmade goods, Orendorff has also held positions as curator-in-residence for Art2102 of Los Angeles and project manager for The Backroom, an internationally traveling exhibition of artist-ephemera. Orendorff received an M.A. in Modern Art History, Theory & Criticism from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2012, and a B.A. in Journalism and a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Humanities from Arizona State University in 2006. For more information, visit <http://dandannydaniel.com>

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET'S CURATORIAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM:

Charlotte Street Foundation's Curatorial Residency Program was launched in 2012 in order to engage outstanding emerging curators from around the country with the Kansas City region and its artists. Providing support and a public platform for an annually selected curator to develop and present original, community-responsive contemporary arts programming, the program seeks to nurture the work and careers of up-and-coming curators, bring fresh curatorial approaches and critical perspectives to the Kansas City region, and to expand opportunities and networks for Kansas City artists. Teaching partnerships with the Department of Art at University of Missouri-Kansas City and Kansas City Art Institute further connect the curator-in-residence with area students.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION:

Over 16 years, Charlotte Street has challenged, nurtured, and empowered thousands of artists, distributed almost \$900,000 in awards and grants to artists and their projects, and connected individual artists to each other and to the greater Kansas City community. Charlotte Street—with its community of artists—strives to be a primary catalyst in making Kansas City a vibrant, creative metropolis, alive with collaboration, passion, ideas, and surprise. For more information about Charlotte Street, its awards, programs, and initiatives, visit www.charlottestreet.org.