

PRESS RELEASE: March 7, 2017
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**CHARLOTTE
STREET
FOUNDATION**

Charlotte Street Foundation Announces Recipients of the 2017 Charlotte Street Visual & Generative Performing Artist Awards

Five Kansas City-based artists each to receive unrestricted \$10,000 cash awards



[Kansas City, MO] Charlotte Street Foundation is pleased to announce the five recipients of the 2017 Charlotte Street Awards. The 2017 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Award Fellows are **Karen McCoy**, **Stephen Proski**, and **Samara Umbral**. The 2017 Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Award Fellows are **Amado Espinoza** and **Cat Mahari**. Each artist will receive an unrestricted cash award of \$10,000.

The 2017 Charlotte Street Visual Artist and Generative Performing Artist Award Fellows are selected through competitive processes which begin with an open call for applications from artists based in the five-county Kansas City Metro area. Artist selections are made by a panel of jurors consisting of renowned and qualified arts professionals. Jurors participated in in-person interviews, presentations, and studio visits resulting in the selection of ten finalists for the Generative Performing Artists Awards and ten finalists for the Visual Artist Awards.

The **2017 Visual Artist Award** panel included **Eric Crosby**, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburg, PA); **Bruce Hartman**, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art (Overland Park, KS); **Andria Hickey**, Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland (Cleveland, OH); **Gia Hamilton**, Director, Joan Mitchell Center (New Orleans, LA).

The **2017 Generative Performing Artist Award** panel included **Tyrone Aiken**, Chief Artistic Officer, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (Kansas City, MO); **Chris Cogburn**, Founder/Director at No Idea Festival (Austin, TX); **Erin Boberg Doughton**, Performing Arts Director, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (Portland, OR); **Whit McLaughlin**, Artistic Director, New Paradise Laboratories and Freelance Theatre (Philadelphia, PA).

The work of the Visual Artist Award Fellows will be featured in the 2017 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Award exhibition at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art.

Images above (left to right): Cat Mahari; Karen McCoy; Stephen Proski; Samara Umbral; Amado Espinoza w/ trio

ABOUT THE CHARLOTTE STREET VISUAL ARTIST AWARDS:

Charlotte Street launched its Visual Artist Awards in 1997. Charlotte Street has continued to act as a catalyst for discovering and promoting emerging art and has distributed over \$660,000 to Kansas City-based visual artists through the Award program, with a total of 91 visual artists receiving these Awards to date. These Awards aim to recognize and meaningfully support exceptional artists working in the visual arts field, who are actively creating new, progressive work. The Awards recognize accomplishments to date as well as promise for continued artistic development and achievement. An exhibition featuring new and recent work by the Fellows is organized annually, currently rotating among H&R



*Kansas City's Arts Provocateur
1000 W 25th Street KC MO 64108*

Block Artspace at Kansas City Art Institute, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, and Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art at the Crossroads location.

ABOUT THE CHARLOTTE STREET GENERATIVE PERFORMING AWARDS:

Charlotte Street launched its Generative Performing Artist Awards in 2008 as a parallel program to the Visual Artist Awards. Charlotte Street has continued to act as a catalyst for discovering and supporting contemporary performing art, and has distributed \$141,500 to 19 performing artists creating original new work in the fields of dance, theater, music, performance, spoken word, and hybrid/interdisciplinary performance-based forms. These Awards aim to recognize and meaningfully support artists producing exceptional performance-based work that is original, innovative, and progressive.

ABOUT THE 2017 AWARD FELLOWS:

Amado Espinoza (Performing)

Amado Espinoza, from Cochabamba, Bolivia, is a unique performing artist that respects his folk traditions of the Andes Mountains, while creating compositions that are sincere to his musical-wanderlust personality. He specializes in the Bolivian charango, a small ten-stringed guitar, but demonstrates mastery of over 40 instruments, including latin, african and arabic percussion, and native flutes from all over the world. A multi-faceted performer, Amado also guides sound meditations, recycled instrument workshops, and is a respected instrument maker in South America and beyond.



Cat Mahari (Performing)

Cat Mahari's roots are in African Diaspora street, stage, traditional, community and club processes. She references genealogies of being through multiple dance, cross-disciplinary movement, and media arts. She is the Founder and Director of 31st&Brklyn, a platform for performance art and community engagement in Kansas City, MO. She is a 2x SEARCH grant awardee and 2008 Fulbright/Gilman Scholar for her performance-as-research series on inter-connectivity between Merce Cunningham and Breaking presented at University of Missouri-Kansas City's Conservatory of Music and Dance, as part of SEARCH Symposium (2007, 2009).



Karen McCoy (Visual)

Karen McCoy has been teaching in the Sculpture Department as a member of the faculty at the Kansas City Art Institute since 1994 when she joined the Sculpture Department as Chair, a position she held until 2003. Prior to joining the faculty at the Kansas City Art Institute, she taught sculpture at Williams College and Colby College in Massachusetts and Maine. Her primary work is large-scale, sited environmental sculpture. McCoy focuses on the relationship between nature and culture, creating work based on extensive research into the geological, cultural, and social histories of each site. She works in video, photography, installation and makes drawings and prints. McCoy's work has been included in *Ways to Wander* published in 2015 in the UK, *World of Art*, Henry Sayre (6th Ed. 2010 and 7th Ed 2012); *Gardens without Boundaries*, Paul Cooper (2003); *Krakamarken, J©™rn R©™nneau* (2001); *Earthworks and Beyond*, John Beardsley (3rd Ed. 1998); and *Landscape Narratives*, Matthew Potteiger and Jamie Purinton (1998). Significant articles about her work have appeared in *Lake* (2008), in *Land Forum Magazine* (1999), in the *Land Report* (1996) and in *Art and Design*; *Art and the Natural Environment* (1994).



Stephen Proski (Visual)

Stephen Proski was born in the Bay Area and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. He is a visually-impaired painter squinting through the chaos and clamor of reality, using a needle and thread to mend and make sense of the madness. His work spawns from the debris of the digital in a constantly evolving post-digital landscape. Thriving off the vestiges of nostalgia, he utilizes thrown away bits of information to choreograph some kind of archetype, unknown or yet to be determined. He currently lives and works in Kansas City, Missouri.

Stephen has shown locally in Kansas City at 50/50, Bunker Center for the Arts, and Epsten Gallery and nationally at Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Red Fox Gallery in Bedford, NY, Fort Gondo Compound for the Arts in Saint Louis, MO, and internationally at the State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia. He has been featured in local publications such as KC Studio Magazine and The Kansas City Star, as well as nationally in NEA Arts Magazine and Temporary Art Review.

**Samara Umbral (Visual)**

Samara Umbral began showing her small paintings in the Chelsea Art District of NYC while finishing up her BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute. Soon after graduating, Umbral relocated to New York City. Samara's solo show at The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in 2012 was a continuation of her small paintings capturing girlhood, which has been a dominant theme in her work. After a few years in NYC, Samara decided to move back to Kansas City in 2015 with a solo show at Haw Contemporary which included large scale Craola Crayon drawings on raw canvas.

**ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION:**

Charlotte Street identifies the needs and fuels the evolution of an ever-changing multidisciplinary arts ecosystem, acting as its primary provocateur. Charlotte Street cultivates the contemporary, the exceptional, and the unexpected in the practice of artists working in and engaging with the Kansas City art community. Since 1997, Charlotte Street has distributed over \$1.1 million in awards and grants to artists and their innovative projects, and connected individual artists to each other and to the greater Kansas City community. For more information about Charlotte Street, its awards, programs, and initiatives, visit www.charlottestreet.org.