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Charlotte Street Foundation announces recipients of the 2014 Charlotte Street Visual & Generative Performing Artist Awards

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

Charlotte Street Foundation is proud to announce five recipients of 2014 Charlotte Street Awards. The 2014 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Award Fellows are **Amy Kligman**, **Garry Noland**, and **Sean Starowitz**. The 2014 Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Award Fellows are **Jane Gotch** and **Hermon Mehari**. Each artist will receive an unrestricted cash Award of \$10,000. In addition, Amy Kligman is the first recipient of a new annual Byron C. Cohen Award, established in memory of gallerist and collector Byron Cohen and administered by Charlotte Street Foundation. This Award provides funding for one Award Fellow each year to attend an international art fair.

The 2014 Charlotte Street Awards Fellows were selected through competitive processes, which began with open calls for applications from artists based in the 5-County Kansas City Metro Area. The selected processes culminated in-person visits and presentations by 11 finalists for the Generative Performing Artists Awards and studio visits with 10 finalists for the Visual Artist Awards.

The Visual Artist Awards panel included **Gilbert Vicario**, Senior Curator, Des Moines Art Center; **Lumi Tan**, Assistant Curator, The Kitchen, New York; **Bruce Hartman**, Director, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS; and **Danny Orendorff**, Charlotte Street Foundation Curator-in-Residence, Kansas City, MO.

The Generative Performing Artist Awards panel included **Jane Beachy**, independent performance producer and curator/director, Salonathon, Chicago; **David Ford**, multi-disciplinary artist, Kansas City, MO; **Kip Haaheim**, composer, musician, and Associate Professor of Music Composition, University of Kansas; **Nicole Hodges Persley**, theatre artist and Assistant Professor of Theatre, University of Kansas; and **Emily Johnson**, choreographer & director, Catalyst, MN.

The work of the Visual Artist Awards Fellows will be featured in the 2014 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Awards Exhibition opening September 2014 at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at Johnson County Community College, curated by Nerman Museum Director Bruce Hartman. Public performances of work by the Generative Performing Artist Awards Fellows will be promoted by Charlotte Street Foundation throughout the year.

ABOUT THE CHARLOTTE STREET VISUAL ARTIST AWARDS:

Charlotte Street launched its Visual Artist Awards in 1997. With the 2014 Awards, Charlotte Street has now distributed \$572,500 to Kansas City-based visual artists through the Awards

program, with a total of 83 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, contemporary 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 the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Grand Arts, and the H&R Block Artspace at Kansas City Art Institute.

ABOUT THE GENERATIVE PERFORMING AWARDS:

Charlotte Street launched its Awards to Generative Performing Awards in 2008, as a parallel program to the Visual Artist Awards. With the 2014 Awards, Charlotte Street has now distributed \$78,000 to 13 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 contemporary. The Awards recognize accomplishments to date as well as promise for continued artistic development and achievement.

ABOUT THE 2014 AWARDS FELLOWS:

JANE GOTCH (Generative Performing Award):

Jane Gotch is recognized as a choreographer and creator of original dance and cross-disciplinary performances. Her work, in her words, “occupies a vacillating identity between highly technical dance and emotionally expressive physical theater.” Manifestations are often dance-based performance installations developed in collaboration with actors, dancers, visual artists, lighting designers, vocalists and musicians that are “inextricably linked to the inherent talents and personal histories of the collaborating artists.” These works have been staged in spaces such as office buildings, street corners, haunted house basements, parks, art galleries, and, on occasion, in theaters.

Originally from Omaha, NE, Jane attended University of Missouri at Kansas City’s Conservatory of Dance from 1996-1998, and graduated from University of the Arts in Philadelphia in 2000 with a BFA in modern dance. She has also studied at the Alvin Ailey School in New York, and danced professionally with Scrap Performance Group (PA), Netta Yerushalmy’s Dancing People (NY), and as an apprentice with Tere O’Connor Dance (NY). Gotch is the recipient of two Inspiration Grants from The Metropolitan Arts Council of Kansas City (2008 & 2010), Charlotte Street Urban Culture Project Studio Residencies (2009-2011 & 2013-2014), and a 2010 Rocket Grant from Charlotte Street Foundation and Spencer Museum of Art, funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation, for the multi-disciplinary, collaborative performance project, *WE!*. Her choreography has been presented at The Fifth Stop Open Studios (Brooklyn), The Philadelphia Fringe Festival (PA), A Modern Night at the Folly (KC), Charlotte



Performance still from “Let it Fall, choreographed by Jane Gotch, 2014. Credit: Mike Strong.

Street's La Esquina and Paragraph galleries (KC), and The Lawrence Arts Center. For more information, visit www.janegotch.com.

AMY KLIGMAN (Visual Artist Award):

Amy Kligman creates paintings and mixed media works that reflect on the middle class environments she grew up in. Her visual vocabulary includes flaking linoleum, astroturf, wormy tendrils of shag carpet, fistfuls of paper confetti, and other bits of middle American detritus. Her content and approach to making is reflective of a mix of influences: folkish ceramics/floral arrangements/crafts, high/low culture clash, the complicated character of the American Midwest, and the personal and cultural weight of everyday objects. In her work she oscillate between the very mundane and the uncanny, seeking a reflection of the very strange against the very normal.



Amy Kligman, *Two Packs a Day*, 2013, acrylic on canvas, 39x25".

Kligman's work has been published in *New American Paintings* and exhibited nationally, including in solo and two-person exhibitions at 1522 St. Louis, Kansas City Artists Coalition, and Leedy-Voulkos Art Center in Kansas City, MO; Lawrence Art Center, Lawrence, KS; Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO; and Wooltex Gallery, Cleveland, OH, as well as in group exhibition at venues including *Women and their Work*, Austin, TX, and Charlotte Street's la Esquina gallery, Kansas City, MO. Kligman is also one of five collaborators that operate Plug Projects, an artist run exhibition space in Kansas City's West

Bottoms area. She received her BFA from Ringling College of Art and Design. For more information, visit <http://www.amykligman.com>.

HERMON MEHARI (Generative Performing Award):

Hermon Mehari is recognized for his generative work based in music composition and trumpet performance. A student of jazz, neo-soul, pop, R&B, and classical music, Mehari cites influences including Charlie Parker, Michael Jackson, John Coltrane, Logan Richardson, Jay-Z, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Giuseppe Verdi. Mehari is a founding and core member of Diverse, which released their self-titled debut album on Origin Records as a result of winning the 2008 Gene Harris Jazz Competition in Boise, Idaho. This album of twelve original compositions reached the Top 50 of the JazzWeek charts and stayed in the Top 120 for more than six months. Since that time, Diverse has toured nationally and internationally, and has just recorded a second album in Paris, soon to be released. Ahead for Mehari is composing and producing an extensive major work in Kansas City and releasing a series of pop and R&B songs he has recently composed and co-produced for artists including Anthony Saunders, Lee Langston, Julia Haile, Emcee Reach and Les Izmore.



Hermon Mehari.
(photo: Todd Zimmer)

Originally from Jefferson City, Missouri, Hermon Mehari has been playing the trumpet since he was in the seventh grade. He received a BM in Jazz Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and has studied with Terrell Stafford, Paul McKee, Dave Scott, Clay Jenkins, Jaleel Shaw, Michael Carvin and Bobby Watson. Mehari's discography includes "Check Cashing Day," Bobby Watson (2013); "A Kansas City Trumpet Summit," Mike Metheny, Hermon Mehari, Stan Kessler (2013); "Sophisticated Lady EP," Hermon Mehari (2012); "Conciencia Colectiva," Making Movies (2012); "Don't Let Me Stay," John Velghe and the Prodigal Sons (2012); and "In The Moment," The KC Sound Collective (2012). He has performed at festivals including the Blues to Bop Festival in Lugano, Switzerland and the Hemingway Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, and at venues including Sunset Jazz Club and Le Baiser Sale, Paris, France; JazzMan, Barcelona, Spain; Catalinas, Los Angeles, CA; House of Blues, New Orleans, LA; and the Midland, Uptown, and Blue Room in Kansas City, among others. For more information, visit <http://www.diversejazz.com> and <http://www.hermonmehari.com>.

GARRY NOLAND (Visual Artist Award):

Garry Noland is interested in transforming materials and experiences into new identities through his art. His work involves accumulating, stacking, layering and collaging, using such materials as adhesive tapes, Styrofoam, plastic tubes, marbles, and bubble wrap. Recent work ranges from



Garry Noland, Failed Monuments (Cool), 2013, Tape, Polystyrene Foam, Installation Variable

large-scale, process- and pattern-intensive duct tape "paintings" to "Failed Monuments" in which chunks of dirty colored styrofoam are transformed into shining gem-like sculptures.

Noland received his B.A. in History of Art from UMKC. His work has been featured in hundreds of exhibitions across the country, including recent solo exhibitions at The Studios Inc, Kansas City, MO; Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE; Gallery 210, University of Missouri-St. Louis, McWethy Gallery, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA, and elsewhere. Later this spring, he will have a solo

exhibition at Zarrow Gallery, University of Tulsa, Tulsa OK as well as a 2-person exhibition with his daughter Peggy Noland at Beverly, St. Louis. He will also have work in "Center is a Moving Target," a Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art-Crossroads show April 4-August 1. Noland was an artist-in-residence at The Studios, Inc. in Kansas City 2011-14, and was awarded a MAAA/NEA Works on Paper Fellowship in 1994. For more information, please visit:

<http://garrynolandart.com/home.html>

SEAN STAROWITZ (Visual Artist Award)

Sean Starowitz's work is executed in a variety of social, political, and community engaged contexts. Notable projects include *BREAD! KC*, a monthly series of migrating dining events generating microgrants for artist projects; *Byproduct: The*



Sean Starowitz, Fresh Bread, 2013 and ongoing.

Laundromat, a series of discussions, performances, installations and events organized for Kansas City's Walnut Street Laundromat; *Fresh Bread*, a "pop-up" bakery responding to food desserts in Kansas City metro area; and *Lots of Love*, a project that will explore new, sustainable, and experiential approaches to utilizing vacant in Kansas City's Ivanhoe Neighborhood. He has also explored curatorial projects such as *The Speakeasy*, and *Vagabond*, Kansas City's premiere pop-up restaurant. He has contributed writings to *Proximity Magazine* and *Temporary Art Review*, and has lectured at Queens College in NY, UCLA's World Arts and Cultures Department, and the 2012 Mid-America College Art Association Conference.

Starowitz is currently artist-in-residence at the Farm To Market Bread Company in Kansas City. He is a 2010 graduate of the Interdisciplinary Arts program at the Kansas City Art Institute and a 2012 Rocket Grant recipient with support from the Charlotte St. Foundation, Spencer Museum of Art and the Andy Warhol Foundation. For more information, visit: <http://seanstarowitz.com>

About Charlotte Street Foundation

For 17 years, Charlotte Street has challenged, nurtured, and empowered thousands of artists, distributed over \$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.