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Contact: Mason Kilpatrick
620.899.6508 |
communications@charlottestreet.org
www.charlottestreet.org
For immediate release



**CHARLOTTE
STREET
FOUNDATION**

2018 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards exhibition
H&R Block Artspace is set to host the exhibition on October 11 from 6-8 PM

KANSAS CITY, MO, Tuesday, October 2: Charlotte Street Foundation is ecstatic that H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute will be hosting the *2018 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards* exhibition for the eighth time in its 21-year history. The exhibition is scheduled to run from Thursday, October 11 through Saturday, December 15, 2018, at the H&R Block Artspace. The exhibition will feature new work from 2018 Visual Artist Award Fellows Marie Bannerot McInerney, Jarrett Mellenbruch and Jillian Youngbird. The opening reception for the exhibition will be on Thursday, October 11 from 6 – 8 PM, and it is free and open to the public. Charlotte Street Foundation and H&R Block Artspace are pleased to partner with Open Spaces Kansas City as a participant in Open Spaces: The Expanded Field for this exhibition.

Since 1997, Charlotte Street's Visual Artist Award has supported outstanding visual artists living in Kansas City through annual, unrestricted cash awards distributed directly to visual artists. These competitive awards recognize local artists who are creating outstanding artwork and show great accomplishment and promise by providing financial support, critical attention, and increased exposure with the aim of fostering their continued artistic and professional development.



From Left to Right: Jillian Youngbird, *Untitled* (detail), 2018, from *2018 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards exhibition* at H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute. Courtesy of the artist and H&R Block Artspace.
Jarrett Mellenbruch, *Untitled* (detail), 2018, from *2018 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards exhibition* at H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute. Courtesy of the artist and H&R Block Artspace.
Marie Bannerot McInerney, *Untitled* (detail), 2018, from *2018 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards exhibition* at H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute. Courtesy of the artist and H&R Block Artspace.

The 2018 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Award Fellows were selected through competitive processes beginning with open calls for applications from artists based in the five-county Kansas City Metro Area. Artists selections were made by a panel of jurors consisting of renowned and qualified arts professionals.

The Visual Artist Awards panel included Jennifer Baker, Assistant Curator of H&R Block Artspace (Kansas City, MO), José Esparza Chong Cuy, Pamela Alper Associate Curator at Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, IL), Joey Orr, Andrew W. Mellon Curator for Research at University of Kansas, Spencer Museum, (Lawrence, KS), and Larry Ossei-Mensah, the Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator at The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (Detroit, MI).



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

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Marie Bannerot McInerney

Marie Bannerot McInerney is an interdisciplinary studio artist, curator, and educator. Her site-responsive installations invite moments of reflection in order to consider human agency within the framework of ecological systems and natural phenomena. She has exhibited across the United States and abroad including shows at the Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, WA, Mildred Lane Kemper Museum in Saint Louis, MO, Corcoran College in Washington, DC, Coop Gallery, in Nashville, TN, Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany, and the Han Tianheng Art Museum Shanghai in Shanghai City, China.

McInerney co-authored an essay in the book, *Probing the Skin: Cultural Representations of our Contact Zone* and was awarded a Cultural Exchange Grant from the U.S. Embassy in Berlin to travel and present work. She currently serves on the advisory board for the Friends of Dard Hunter and is an Assistant Professor in the Fiber Department at the Kansas City Art Institute.

Jarrett Mellenbruch

Jarrett Mellenbruch received his BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI, in 1993. In 2014, Jarrett was a Presidential Scholar and received his MFA at the Maine College of Art in Portland, ME. He is a conceptual artist that regularly explores ways to cross-pollinate work between fields, in particular between his lifelong passions for art and science, in order to speak to current sociopolitical and ecological conditions. His public art projects consistently embody the underlying themes of place making, collaboration, and social capital.

Chosen by The Spencer Museum at Kansas University as the lead artist for a three-year international research project exploring ways scientists and artists can work together, he is further building upon his integration of disciplines toward a creative outcome. The aim of this socially engaged artwork is to investigate new ways to democratize public health issues related to insect borne diseases and empower the underserved.

Jillian Youngbird

Jillian is a hunter-gatherer, story-teller and visual artist living and working in Kansas City. She studied art at the Kansas City Art Institute and currently works at a non-profit art studio supporting artists with developmental disabilities. Being of Native American descent, growing up in the Ozark hills formed an interesting narrative in her self-identity. Storytelling has always been an important part of both cultures. In her study of Ozark and native lore, she has come to find common threads and motives.

This kind of artistic storytelling can function as an expression of personal and group identity, as well as providing political and social control. Through the study of nature, history and folklore, she uses recycled materials from her environment to create sculpture, photographs and performances that investigate our impact on the natural world and her place between two interwoven cultures.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE (all events at H&R Block Artspace unless otherwise noted)

Thursday, October 11

6 - 8 p.m. Opening Reception

2018 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards

Fridays, October 26 & December 7

12 - 1 p.m. *TNT (the noon thing)*

Noon-time public engagement series offering additional context to the exhibitions on view.

Friday, November 2

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. *For Freedoms Town Hall: Slowness*

Guest panelists: Journalist C.J. Javony; Jay Johnson, Associate Professor and Chair of Geography & Atmospheric Science at the University of Kansas; and Lutz Koepnick, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of German, Cinema and Media Arts at Vanderbilt University

Inspired by the themes of the artworks in the *2018 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Awards* exhibition, with an interdisciplinary focus, and in partnership with For Freedoms (an artist-led platform for action and engagement) in *Commonspace*, the Artspace will host a town hall discussion that seeks to encourage more active, collaborative, inclusive and empathetic communities.

Thursday, November 8

7 - 8 p.m. *Current Perspectives: CSF Visual Artist Awards*

Panel discussion inspired by themes within the exhibition and informed by each artists' processes and strategies of inquiry and research.

Epperson Auditorium, Vanderslice Hall on the KCAI campus, 4415 Warwick, Kansas City, MO 64111

Friday, November 30

5 - 8 p.m. *Artspace After Hours*

In conjunction with KCAI end-of-semester shows, Artspace will host an Open House in the galleries.

Third Thursdays: October 18 & November 15

6:30 - 8 p.m. *PDF Club*

Reading and discussion group inspired by the exhibitions on view, held each third Thursday in *Commonspace*. RSVP to jebaker@kcai.edu

First Fridays: November 2 & December 7

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. *First Friday Meditation Series*

Guided meditation inspired by the exhibitions on view. RSVP to mdcain@kcai.edu

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET'S VISUAL ARTIST AWARD

Charlotte Street launched its Visual Artist Awards in 1997. Charlotte Street continues to act as a catalyst for discovering and promoting emerging art in Kansas City and has now distributed over \$691,500 to Kansas City-based visual artists through the Award program, with a total of 94 visual artists receiving these Awards to date. An exhibition featuring new and recent work by the Fellows is organized annually, currently rotating among H&R Block Artspace at Kansas City Art Institute, the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art at the Crossroads location.

ABOUT THE ARTSPACE

Artists. Art. Ideas. Dedicated to artists, art, and ideas since 1999, the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute presents exhibitions of contemporary art and a range of public programs for a growing audience of students, educators, artists, and the general public. Support is provided by the H&R Block Foundation and the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. Public hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. To schedule a group visit or gallery talk with Artspace staff, call 816-802-3571. For more information about the Artspace and public programs, visit <http://www.kcai.edu/artspace>.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET

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.

ABOUT OPEN SPACES

Open Spaces is a citywide, family-friendly arts festival with Kansas City's iconic Swope Park as its hub. For nine weeks, August 25 – October 28, Open Spaces will feature over 200 artists as Kansas City transforms into a center of artistic expression filled with performances, art installations, food, music, and more. For more information, visit <https://openspaceskc.com>.

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