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Charlotte Street Foundation announces recipients of the 2015 Charlotte Street Awards

***Five Kansas City-based artists to receive unrestricted cash Awards of \$10,000 each;
One Kansas City-based artist to receive Art Omi Fellowship***

Charlotte Street Foundation is proud to announce five recipients of 2015 Charlotte Street Awards. The 2015 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Award Fellows are **Jill Downen**, **Rashawn Griffin**, and **Misha Kligman**. The 2015 Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Award Fellows are **Jeff Harshbarger** and **Hunter Long**. Each artist will receive an unrestricted cash award of \$10,000. Misha Kligman is also the recipient of the 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.

In addition, **Cory Imig** has been selected as the Charlotte Street resident of the Art Omi International Artists Residency program in Summer 2015. The prestigious Art Omi International Artists Residency program reserves one place for a Charlotte Street artist each year. Art Omi uses an independent competitive jury process to select their residency artists. Imig will attend this four-week residency in upstate New York as one of thirty artists from around the world.

The Charlotte Street Visual Artist and Generative Performing Artist Awards Fellows were selected through competitive processes, which began with an open call for applications from artists based in the 5-County Kansas City Metro Area. The selected processes culminated in-person visits, 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 **Erin Dziedzic**, Curator and Head of Adult Programs, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art (Kansas City, MO); **Roger Shimomura**, Artist and Distinguished Professor of Art Emeritus, University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS); **Kelly Shindler**, Associate Curator, Contemporary Art Museum-St. Louis (St. Louis, MO); and **Raechell Smith**, Director/Curator, H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute (Kansas City, MO).

The Generative Performing Artist Awards panel included **Ric Averill**, Artistic Director of Performing Arts, Lawrence Arts Center (Lawrence, KS); **Gulgun Kayim**, Artist and Director of Arts, Culture & Creative Economy, City of Minneapolis (Minneapolis, MN); **Chip Miller**, Assistant Artistic Director, Kansas City Repertory Theatre (Kansas City, MO); and **Catherine Pancake**, Filmmaker, Sound Artist & Performance Coordinator, Vox Populi Gallery (Philadelphia, PA).

The work of the Visual Artist Awards Fellows will be featured in the 2015 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Awards Exhibition opening October 23, 2015 at the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City

Art Institute, curated by Artspace Director/Curator Raechell Smith. 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. Including the 2015 Awards, Charlotte Street has now distributed \$602,500 to Kansas City-based visual artists through the Awards program, with a total of 86 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 will take place H&R Block Artspace at Kansas City Art Institute from October 24 – December 15, 2015.

ABOUT THE CHARLOTTE STREET 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 2015 Awards, Charlotte Street has now distributed \$98,000 to 15 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 ART OMI:

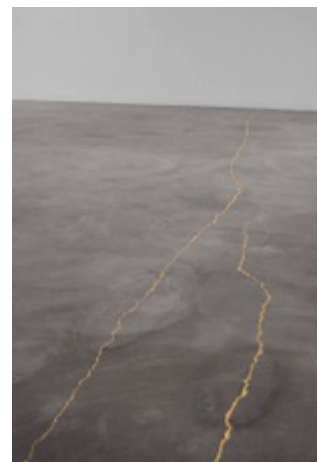
Omi International Artists Residency invites visual artists from every continent, representing a wide diversity of artistic styles, to gather in rural New York State to experiment, collaborate, and share ideas. During four weeks each June-July, concentrated time for creative work is balanced with the stimulation of cultural exchange and critical appraisal.

ABOUT THE 2015 AWARD FELLOWS:

JILL DOWNEN (Visual Artist Award):

Jill Downen’s art is a focused investigation of the symbiotic relationship between the human body and architecture, expressed in temporal installations, drawings, and models. Her art envisions a place of interdependent relation between the human body and architecture, where the exchanging forces and tensions of construction, deterioration, and restoration emerge as thematic possibilities. It offers audiences a place to slow down and alter their perceptions in order to see and think in new ways.

Downen is the recipient of many significant awards, including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship, Studios Inc. Residency in Kansas City, MacDowell Colony National Endowment for the Arts residency, and Cité International des Arts Residency in Paris. She has



Jill Downen; *Beauty Mark*; 2013; concrete and gold leaf

created site-specific installations for museums such as Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Oklahoma City Museum of Art and American University Art Museum at the Katzen. Downen has been invited to lecture about her work extensively, including the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. and the Luce Irigaray Circle Philosophy Conference in New York. Downen lives and maintains her studio in Kansas City, and is represented by the Bruno David Gallery in St. Louis. She holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA as a Danforth Scholar from Washington University in St. Louis. Jill Downen is currently an assistant professor of sculpture at the Kansas City Art Institute. Visit her at <http://jilldownen.com>.

RASHAWN GRIFFIN (Visual Artist Award):



Rashawn Griffin; *Everything Counts*; 2013; felt, aluminum, cable

Rashawn Griffin works in painting, sculpture, and installation. With materials ranging from fabric and tassels to paint and cookies, his practice uses poetic relationships between objects and painting, highlighting the “strangeness and beauty” in between.

Griffin was born in Los Angeles, California, and he received an MFA from Yale University in 2005. He was a 2005-2006 resident of the Studio Museum in Harlem’s AIR program. Since then, his work has been exhibited widely, including the 2008 Whitney Biennial, a the two-person exhibition at the Studio Museum (RSVP), as well as “Freeway Balconies” at the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin, Germany, and “Black Now” at the Longwood Gallery in the Bronx, New York, curated by Collier Schorr and Fred Wilson respectively. Recently the subject of the solo exhibition “A hole-in-the-wall country” at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Overland Park, Kansas, his work has been included in the exhibition “Minimal Baroque” at Rønnebæksholm in Næstved, Denmark, as well as “30 Seconds off an Inch” at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

JEFF HARSHBARGER (Generative Performing Award):

Jeff Harshbarger has been a major voice in the creative community of Kansas City for over a decade. Holding such honors as The Kennedy Center’s Betty Carter Fellowship and The Steans Institute Fellowship, he has collaborated with both musicians (Bobby Watson, Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, Alaturka) and visual artists (Sissel Tolaas, David Ford, Renee Cinderhouse) to create innovative musical work that defies genre. As a prolific composer and bandleader, Harshbarger has performed across the globe and is a co-founder of Tzigane Music, an artist-run collective and record label.



He is the curator of *Jeff Harshbarger Presents*:

Photo of the artist by Jerry Osterle

An Alternative Jazz Series, promoting new and improvised music in Kansas City, and the host of Wednesday's *Jazz in the Afternoon* on 90.1 FM KKFI. For more information, visit <http://www.jeffharshbarger.com>.

CORY IMIG (Art Omi Fellow):

Cory Imig is an artist, curator and educator. Her work takes the form of large-scale installations that focus on documenting time and highlighting pattern. The installations are made using common everyday materials; such as masking tape, string, wood boards and balloons. Using the constantly changing shape of the balloons she attempts to illustrate the ephemeral and immaterial nature of the passing of time.



Cory Imig; *Buoyant Loss*; 2014; artist tape, balloon, and helium

Imig has attended residencies at The Vermont Studio Center (2008), Charlotte Street Foundation Urban Culture Project Studio Residency (2011), and ACRE Artist Residency (2013). Her work has been exhibited in numerous exhibitions across the United States, in spaces such as Charlotte Street Foundation Project Space, Hardesty Art Center, ACRE Projects, and the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute. In 2013, Imig was

awarded the "Odom/Weber" Echo Scholarship from ACRE as well as a Professional Development Grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance. She was a 2012 fellow in the Oklahoma Art Writing and Curatorial Fellowship Program where she worked with leading regional and national curators, critics, organizers and academics. Imig is a founding member of PLUG Projects (www.plugprojects.com), a curatorial collaboration in the Stockyards District of Kansas City. She studied fiber and sculpture at the Savannah College of Art and Design (2008) and currently, is a Lecturer in Fiber Department at the Kansas City Art Institute. For more information about her work visit www.coryimig.com.

MISHA KLIGMAN (Visual Artist Award)

Misha Kligman's work is self-reflective insofar as it originates from the subjective. However, each body of Kligman's work points to larger themes such as the tension between death and duty, thought and action, empathy and justice, and generally the relationship of art to one's life.



Misha Kligman; *Untitled Man*;

Misha Kligman received an MFA in Painting and Drawing from University of Kansas in 2009 and BA in Art from Cleveland State University in 2001. Most recently Kligman's work has been seen in group exhibitions "Looking At After: Four Contemporary Artists Reflect on Legacy" (curated by Heather Lustfeldt) at the Epsten Gallery and "Night" at Haw Contemporary (curated by Michael Krueger). An upcoming solo exhibition of Kligman's work is scheduled to open in May 2015 at 1522 Saint Louis exhibition space in Kansas City. Reviews of Kligman's work have appeared in *The*

Kansas City Star, *Lawrence Journal-World* and *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, among others. Kligman is a participant in the curatorial collaborative Plug Projects and is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor of Art at the Johnson County Community College. He lives and works in Kansas City where he shares a studio with his wife, painter Amy Kligman. View more of his work at <http://www.mishakligman.com>.

HUNTER LONG (Generative Performing Award)

Hunter Long is a performer, composer, and producer based in Kansas City, Kansas. Raised in Branson, Missouri, he went to college in New York before moving to Kansas City to study jazz with Bobby Watson.

Long founded the Black House Collective in 2009, where to date he has produced 13 new music workshops, 11 world premiered operas and a two-month-long new music festival: Black Lab. Long has been awarded both jazz and classical residencies at the Banff Centre, was a 2014 resident composer for the Montreal Contemporary Music Lab (MCML), and is a 2013 Robert Rauschenberg SEED Grantee. Long is currently working with the MCML on a Kansas City/Montreal musical exchange, in which musicians from both cities will collaborate to create new music to be premiered in Kansas City on April 30th. Visit <http://hunterlong.squarespace.com> to learn more.



Photo of the artist, photo courtesy of Black House Collective.

About Charlotte Street Foundation

For 18 years, Charlotte Street has challenged, nurtured, and empowered thousands of artists, distributed over \$950,000 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.