

Grand Arts and Urban Culture Project / Charlotte Street Foundation
invite you to join members of

Carnal Torpor (Kansas City, MO & Omaha, NE)

Okay Mountain (Austin, TX)

SSION (Kansas City, MO) and

spurse (dispersed) for

group the<(o)>r<ap>y

**A public conversation about the dynamics of working collaboratively
with five minute presentations from each group
followed by an informal discussion among participants
and a cathartic exercise courtesy of Carnal Torpor.**

Saturday, November 22nd, 4-6pm at Grand Arts

What are some models for artists and interventionists working collectively?

What can be gained by working in a collective? What is lost?

How are decisions made?

Who or what speaks for the group?

Are collectives sustainable?

Should they aspire to be?

What does evolution look like?

Please join us for a spirited and revealing conversation about the politics of getting things done in groups. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. Group-made snacks will be provided.

About the participants:

Carnal Torpor

Situating their practice in the space between artistic collaboration and communal cult, members of Carnal Torpor explore utopian themes within a variety of contexts and through a variety of media. Their work has found its home in a diverse range of settings, from death-metal concerts to new age retreats to institutions of fine art, including an installation entitled "Initiation of the CalmDome" at the Paragraph Gallery in Kansas City, Missouri in the summer of 2007. Carnal Torpor's current projects involve investigating the creation of alternative economies, holistic branding, and communal living as models for navigating information saturated cultures and manifesting utopian realities.

Okay Mountain

Okay Mountain is an artist-run gallery committed to enhancing Austin's appreciation of global contemporary art by showing diverse works, partnering with cultural and social institutions, and providing a place for artists to work and exhibit. Okay Mountain officially opened in Austin, Texas in April of 2006. The staff consists of nine practicing artists and a few loyal interns. Okay Mountain has hosted more 25 exhibitions in the past few years, including "Slow Cooked - New Work from Kansas City," which opened at their Austin space on November 8, 2008. The exhibition is curated by Sterling Allen, Co-Director of Okay Mountain, and is being presented as part of a collaboration with Kansas City's Urban Culture Project and the Charlotte Street Foundation. In addition to their exhibition program, Okay Mountain hosts live music events, maintains a studio work space for local artists, and exhibits their own work both individually and as a collective.

spurse

spurse is an open-ended group of individuals and organizations that work together as a type of experimental consultation service towards the development of new forms of engagement, practices and knowledges. A primary area of investigation for the group is the "collective production of experimental commons." This inquiry into the commons has manifested in an extraordinary range of activities, including opening restaurants, installing archives in government buildings, building microbiological laboratories for museums, working with communities to record oral histories, organizing community soccer games, publishing books and DVDs, and more. spurse is currently at work on a project with Grand Arts called "Deep Time + Rapid Time", which will open as a research laboratory at Grand Arts in February, 2009. <<spurse.org>>

SSION

SSION is an art-punk music collective created and directed by lead singer Cody Critcheloe. SSION's performances are lo-fi and over the top, combining spectacular costumes, dancers and live music with original videos by Critcheloe and a changing band of collaborators. In 2007, SSION aimed to make the "gayest dance album ever," which they released under the title *Fool's Gold* on the Sleazetone label in 2008. Since its release, SSION has toured *Fool's Gold* throughout the United States—most recently on the west coast with CSS and Tilly and the Wall. For the past two years, SSION has

been working on the production of a *Fool's Gold* movie which will premiere at Grand Arts in fall 2009. <<ssion.com>>