

## THE DINING ROOM PROJECT



### CALL FOR PROPOSALS, SUBMISSIONS, PARTICIPATION

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW:

**THE DINING ROOM PROJECT: *Intersections of Food, Art, and the Rituals of Eating*** is a collaborative project initiated by the **Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KJMC)** for its Museum Without Walls program and in celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The purpose of the project is to provide a series of meaningful forums in which to consider our multifaceted relationship with food. With this project, the traditions, rituals, structures, and conviviality of the dining room become a platform for the exploration of issues such as hunger, sustainability, public health, consumption, the origins of food, its history of cultural symbolism, and its ever-evolving role as a vehicle for communication, community-building, and creative expression.

As a component of this project, from **March 18- May 7, 2011**, **Charlotte Street Foundation's Paragraph gallery** (an Urban Culture Project venue at 23 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Kansas City) will host **THE DINING ROOM PROJECT (A POTLUCK SMÖRGÅSBORD)**, a seven week research- and event-based project to include a series of gatherings, talks, discussions, screenings, meals, interactions, happenings, and more. Drawing together aspects of the potluck<sup>1</sup> and the Smorgasbord<sup>2</sup>, the pleasures and sustenance of this multi-course meal, so to speak, will be the diverse contributions of its many participants, graciously offered for communal sampling and sharing.

The walls of Paragraph will feature information about artist-driven, community-oriented, and/or sustainability-focused food and dining-related projects around the world; function as surfaces for a series of video & film screenings; serve as the repository for documentation and artifacts of a Smörgåsbord of activities; and display community contributions, including recipes and photographs. Paragraph will also feature The Kitchen, minimally equipped with hot plate, mini-fridge, microwave, and prep table, to serve as support station for the Dining Room. Paragraph will further serve as a food bank collection site for Harvesters.

Both the exhibition at Paragraph, curated/facilitated by Charlotte Street Associate Director Kate Hackman, and the exhibition at the KJMC Epstein Gallery at Village Shalom (March 20 –May 15, 2011, 5500 West 123rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66209), curated by KJMC's curator Marcus Cain, will center around 16-foot dining room tables, designed and created by artist Peter Warren. At and around these tables a series of participant-driven activities, events, and meals will unfold, along with four thematically focused dinners (two at each site). **THE DINING ROOM PROJECT** will also include the publication of a cookbook/catalogue featuring recipes and artwork by area artists, and documentation of the project as a whole. Additional project components include off-site tours and special events.

<sup>1</sup> **Pot-luck** appears in 16th century England, used to mean "food provided for an unexpected or uninvited guest, the luck of the pot". The sense of "communal meal, where guests bring their own food," originated in the late 19th century or early 20th century US, particularly in the Western US, either by influence from "potlatch" or possibly by extension of traditional sense of "luck of the pot".

<sup>2</sup> **Smörgåsbord** is a type of Scandinavian meal served buffet-style with multiple dishes of various foods on a table. It is typically a celebratory meal and guests can help themselves from a range of dishes laid out for their choice. In English and also in Scandinavian languages, the word *smörgåsbord* refers loosely to any buffet with a variety of dishes. In an extended sense, the word is used to refer to any situation which invites patrons to select whatever they wish among lots of pleasant things.



### **AND IN THE KITCHEN (at Paragraph):**

- **Recipes:** All are invited to submit a favorite or otherwise personally, culturally, or creatively significant recipe for display in the gallery “kitchen” at Paragraph. These may be handwritten or typed, but should include a brief description as to where they came from and their significance to you. Photographs of the food and/or people preparing or eating it are also encouraged. It is planned that materials will be scanned and compiled into a pdf “cookbook” for download online following the show.
- **Photographs and videos:** All are invited to submit personal photographs or videos of memorable dinners and dining-related activities and experiences.

Plus, proposals for contributions to the project not described above are also welcome and will be considered!

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING**

#### **Interested individuals should submit the following:**

**For THE HARVEST:** submit a written proposal specifically describing your approach to soliciting, collecting, organizing, displaying and/or otherwise considering items to be collected for Harvesters. Proposals should include details pertaining to and/or sketches describing proposed approach, including how it will physically occupy space. Include a bio/resume and documentation of past work/projects as relevant.

**For THE TABLE:** submit a statement of interest/proposal describing your intent and approach to the place setting. Proposals should include sketches, photographs, or narrative description of the proposed setting. Include a bio/resume and documentation of past work/projects as relevant.

**For THE SMORGASBORD:** submit a written proposal specifically describing your proposed activity, your interest in/motivations for this activity, and how it fits into *The Dining Room Project*. The proposal should include the following: preferred location if applicable (Paragraph or Epstein Gallery); duration of the event; time/date preferences and/or restrictions if any\*; whether the event will be open to the public; and names and contact information of other collaborators involved, if applicable. Include a bio/resume and documentation of past work/projects as relevant.

\*Exhibition at Paragraph runs March 18-May 7, 2011; gallery hours are Wed, Fri, Sat 12-5, and Thurs 11-6; activities may take place during or outside of gallery hours, 24/7. Exhibition at Epstein Gallery runs March 20-May 15; gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday 11am-4pm; Saturday-Sunday, 1-4pm; activities must take place during gallery hours.

Note: Selected participants will be responsible for providing all necessary equipment, props, supplies, food, etc. and returning the gallery and dinner table to its original condition for the next participant.

Also note: participants will be required to document their activity, providing at least one photograph, a short written statement, and some small artifact to be displayed in the gallery post-activity.

**FOR ALL ABOVE: Proposals are due TUESDAY, January 25, 2011, 5pm. E-mail to [kate@charlottestreet.org](mailto:kate@charlottestreet.org).**

**For THE KITCHEN:** no proposals necessary; all contributions welcome. Recipes should include a brief description as to where they came from and their significance to you. Photographs should be accompanied with a brief description. All should be labeled with name and contact info of submitting individuals. Please include a SASE if you wish for materials to be returned. Mail materials to The Dining Room Project, c/o Charlotte Street Foundation, PO Box 10263 Kansas City MO 64171 or drop off, Mon-Fri, 9:30-5, to Charlotte Street’s offices, 1000 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, KC MO 64108. Materials must be received by March 14, 2011.

**All proposals should include your name, phone, and e-mail address.**

**A few points of reference and inspiration**



**Page 1 header:** artist **Fritz Haeg's** international *Edible Estates* project involves working in collaboration with local volunteers to turn water-wasting urban and suburban lawns into vegetable gardens; **Sharon Core's** *Still Life with Vegetables*, c-print; artist **Jennifer Rubell's** *Reconciliation Dinner*, 2009 at the National Portrait Gallery. **This page, from far left:** artist **Gordon Matta Clark's** *FOOD* in SoHo, founded in 1971; **Agnes Denes' Wheatfield - A Confrontation**, Battery Park Landfill, downtown Manhattan, for which the artist planted and harvested 2 acres of wheat, summer 1982.



Above: Michael Rakowitz's **Enemy Kitchen**, an ongoing project begun by the artist in 2004 - collaborating with his Iraqi-Jewish mother, he compiles Baghdadi recipes and teaches them to different public audiences; **Waffle Shop in Pittsburgh**, a neighborhood restaurant that produces and broadcasts a live-streaming talk show with its customers, operates a changeable storytelling billboard on its roof, and runs a take-out window (**Conflict Kitchen**) that sells food from countries engaged in conflict with the U.S (pictured is a Skyped meal with diners in Tehran).



**From far left:** **OPENrestaurant's** *Spinning Marinetti's Wheels* at SFMOMA revisited F. T. Marinetti's *Futurist Cookbook* from 1932 "with the intent of realigning the Futurist movement's arguably fascist palate with a more sustainable approach to life." **OPENrestaurant** "turns the restaurant, its codes and architecture, into a medium for artistic expression," where cooks, farmers, artists and activists explore issues around food and society." Chicago's **IncUBATE's** (Institute for Community Understanding Between Art and the Everyday) **Sunday Soup** is a monthly meal that generates funding for creative project grants. More than 20 groups around the country, including **BREAD** in Kansas City, are now part of the Sunday Soup network.



Above, from left: **Sharon Core** creates food inspired by artworks, such as *Cakes*, 2004, inspired by the painting by Wayne Thiebaud. LA artist **Bari Ziperstein** invited the public to contribute their dinner plates to "1,095: One Years Worth of Other People's Plates"—a large-scale, temporary, site-specific ceramic plate mandala – as part of **Fallen Fruit's** "Let Them Eat LACMA", Sunday November 7th, 2010.



Above (far right): **Jay Dion, Untitled (Cans)** - mass produced cans of food were transformed from an anonymous commodity to a precious object through mold making and slip casting. The resulting ceramic cans were then offered as gifts in exchange for a donation to a local food bank.

**Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art  
Epsten Gallery | Museum Without Walls**

5500 West 123rd Street (at 123rd & Nall Avenue)  
Overland Park, KS 66209  
913.266.8413  
[www.kcjmca.org](http://www.kcjmca.org)

Established in 1991, the Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KCJMCA) is a longstanding member of the Council of American Jewish Museums (CAJM), founded under the auspices of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. The purpose of KCJMCA is to provide innovative art exhibitions and related programming that engage seniors and diverse audiences from all segments of our community to enrich lives and celebrate our common humanity through art.

KCJMCA defines this intent largely through its Epsten Gallery and Museum Without Walls programs. Established in 2000, Epsten Gallery draws more than 7,200 visitors each year to its museum-quality exhibitions and social and educational programs, while representing a strategic partnership with Village Shalom, an innovative, continuum-care campus that houses the Epsten Gallery. KCJMCA also has a long history of facilitating collaboration with other venues through Museum Without Walls, a program that has been sharing cultural, intellectual, and collection resources and developing site-specific and traveling exhibitions, programs, and cultural events of original thematic content since 1991.

**Charlotte Street Foundation**

1000 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City MO 64108  
816.221.5115  
[www.charlottestreet.org](http://www.charlottestreet.org)

Charlotte Street Foundation was established in 1997 in response to needs articulated by artists and those who saw the arts as a valuable creative, social and economic resource to the city. Charlotte Street Foundation's vision describes a vibrant city where artists are cultivated, respected and admired by leaders in the business, political, philanthropic and civic communities, as well as by a significant segment of the general public. The resulting support for artists leads artists to participate more fully in our community and attracts artists from other cities and the region.

To these ends, Charlotte Street Foundation supports and recognizes outstanding artists in Greater Kansas City; presents, promotes, enhances and encourages the visual, performing and interdisciplinary arts; and fosters economic development in the urban core of Kansas City, MO. In all endeavors, CSF places artists at the center of its mission and has built an infrastructure that depends on and reflects their involvement. As a result, CSF is an organization that continually evolves in response to artist input and in relation to the city's larger cultural ecosystem.

Through its Urban Culture Project initiative, founded in 2003, Charlotte Street supports artists of all disciplines and contributes to city's vitality by transforming previously vacant spaces into dynamic venues for multi-disciplinary contemporary arts programming, including exhibition, performance and studio spaces.