

February 15, 2011
For immediate release Contact: Kate Hackman,
Associate Director Charlotte Street Foundation
816.994.7731 | kate@charlottestreet.org
www.charlottestreet.org
*print quality images available



CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION'S URBAN CULTURE PROJECT PRESENTS

HUMANATURE

*an art exhibition that calls into question
the boundaries between what is human and what is natural*

Opening reception (with artists and curator): Friday, March 4, 6-9pm

+

Public program: *Correlations*, Saturday, March 5, 1pm –

a discussion involving the concepts introduced in *Humanature*,
with artists Cameron Fuller, David Johnson, Jamie Kreher, Karen McCoy, Carin Mincemoyer,
artist/curator B.j. Vogt, and special guests

La Esquina / 1000 West 25th Street, Kansas City MO 64108

All free and open to the public



Humanature runs March 4-April 16, 2011

Hours: 12-5 Wednesday, Friday & Saturday; 11-6 Thursdays

La Esquina (an Urban Culture Project venue)

1000 West 25th Street Kansas City MO 64108

www.charlottestreet.org

Artists: Cameron Fuller (St. Louis), David Johnson (St. Louis), Jamie Kreher (St. Louis), Karen McCoy (Kansas City), Carin Mincemoyer (Pittsburgh, PA), Eric Troffkin (Detroit, MI), and B.j. Vogt (St. Louis). **Curator:** B.j. Vogt

Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project is pleased to present *Humanature*, an exhibition featuring installations, sculptures, photographs, prints, and mixed media works that investigate relationships among humans and nature.

Raising questions about the definitions of "natural" and "man made," the boundaries implied therein, and the manners in which humans are disposed to representing "nature" as "other," this exhibition argues for a more expansive consideration. "Our influence over the natural world, and the impact this influence in turn exerts upon human civilization, make readily apparent the fact that we are, in fact, part of an ongoing natural process in which both choice and chance determine the outcome," writes curator B.j. Vogt. "It is relevant therefore to propose that humans exist as a natural event unfolding within the evolutionary timeline of the Earth."

Installed in a manner that invokes aspects of a natural history museum, the exhibition will feature several large-scale, dynamic installations including a giant volcano spewing Styrofoam “popcorn” by artist/curator B.j Vogt titled *We Are Better Volcanoes than Volcanoes*. St. Louis- based artist Cameron Fuller presents several works, including a display of many dozens of photographs of natural disasters, a museum-like diorama featuring a taxidermied coyote, and *Remembering Washington*, an ambitious installation comprised of a hand-made Kwakiutl-style costume and giant mask rendered as a wall-drawing, with a performative video playing in its mouth.

Other works include a series of *Model Landscapes* by Pittsburgh-based artist Carin Mincemoyer, for which she employs recycled plastic packaging as containers for synthetic landscapes that represent our cultural ideals: clean, well-behaved, and attractive; and a series of large-scale color photographs by Jamie Kreher (St. Louis), which depict suburban parking lot “islands” with their surrounding contexts erased, such that the strangeness of these tiny pockets of planned “nature” is amplified.

Detroit-based artist Eric Troffkin’s *Petal Dishes* (sculptural hybrids of satellite dishes and colorful flowers) and *Can You Hear Me Now?* (a series of egg shaped objects with outmoded cell phone antennae) portray a world in which nature and technology have merged, while photographs by David Johnson portray the comingling of human- and plant-life in domestic, office, and camping settings. Kansas City based artist Karen McCoy is represented by a series of prints created using natural pigments and her own body to mirror specific topographical features, such as *My Thighs As Port Miou* and *My Elbow as a Boulder at Canon Beach, Oregon*.



About the artists:

B.J. Vogt received his BFA from Kansas City Art Institute, 2003, and his MFA from Washington University, St. Louis, 2006, both in sculpture. As a member of Open Lot Collective in St. Louis and former director of Maps Contemporary Art Space, Belleville, IL, he has curated dozens of exhibitions of other artists’ work. His own work has been featured in solo shows at venues including Boots Contemporary Art Space, St. Louis; Spaces, Cleveland; William and Florence Schmidt Art Center, Belleville Illinois; and in group exhibitions at Floor Length and Tux Apartment Gallery, Chicago; Luminary Center for the Arts, St. Louis; NURTUREart, Brooklyn, NY; and Paragraph Gallery (an Urban Culture Project venue), Kansas City. <http://bjvogt.blogspot.com>.

Cameron Fuller received his BA from San Francisco State University, 2005, and his MFA from Washington University, St. Louis, 2007. His work has been presented in solo and two person exhibitions at Drive-by, Snowflake City Stock, St Louis; Bespoke Gallery, NY; and Maps Contemporary Art Space, Belleville, IL; as well as in group shows at venues including Laumeier Sculpture Park, Philip Slein Gallery, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Gallery 210, and White Flag Projects, all in St. Louis. He is the recipient of a Great Rivers Biennial Award (2010), a Riverfront Time Mastermind Award (2009), and a Santo Foundation Artist Support Grant (2009).

David Johnson received his BFA from Texas Christian University, 2005, and his MFA from Washington University, St. Louis, 2007. His work has been featured in exhibitions at Silver Eye Center for Photography, New Works gallery Online, Pittsburg, PA; Boileau Hall, St Louis University; Ellen Curlee Gallery, St. Louis; and Newspace Center for Photography,

Portland, OR, among others. Currently an adjunct teacher of photography at St. Louis University, he is also a founding member of RADLAB and a member of Open Lot Collective, both in St. Louis.

Jamie Kreher received her BA in Sociology/Anthropology from Truman State University, Kirksville, MO, 1996 and her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2005. Her work has been included in exhibitions at Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago; Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis; Version Fest, Chicago; Des Lee Gallery at Washington University, St. Louis; Pierro Gallery, South Orange, NJ; la Esquina (an Urban Culture Project venue), Kansas City; and Society for Contemporary Photography, Kansas City, where she received an Excellence Award. www.jamiekreher.com.

Karen McCoy received her M.F.A. degree from at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1978. She has had solo exhibitions at the Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA; Pindar Gallery, New York, NY; Camargo Foundation, France, and Jan Weiner Gallery, Kansas City. She has participated in many group exhibitions, including shows at Allandale Farm, Brookline, MA; Yerba Beuna Arts Center, San Francisco; Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA; Youkobo Artspace, Tokyo, Japan; H & R Block Artspace, Kansas City, and Northern Illinois University Gallery, Chicago. She has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, the Andy Warhol Foundation (under the auspices of the Camargo Foundation), the Asian Cultural Council, Artslink, and the Art Association and Land Trust of Jackson, Wyoming, and has completed numerous residencies, including the Tokyo Wonder Site and Youkobo Art Center, Tokyo, Japan; the Camargo Foundation, Cassis, France; the Kala Institute, Berkeley, CA; Ucross Foundation, Wyoming; and Djerassi Foundation, Woodside, CA, where her residency was awarded the Pritzker Foundation Endowed Fellowship for a distinguished residency. She is Associate Professor of sculpture at Kansas City Art Institute, where she has taught since 1994. www.karen-mccoy.com.

Carin Mincemoyer received her BFA from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, 1994, and her MFA from State University of New York, Buffalo, 2005. She is the recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowship, among other awards, and has completed residencies at Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha; Klondike Center for Art and Culture, Canada; I-Park, East Haddam, CT; and Vermont Studio Center. Her work has been presented in exhibitions at SPACE Gallery, Pittsburgh; New Art Center, Newton, MA; Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh; SPACES, Cleveland; Good Citizen, St. Louis; Pittsburgh Center for the Arts; Kipp Gallery, Indiana University of PA, Indiana, PA (solo); Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ; and d.u.m.b.o arts center, Brooklyn, among many others. www.carinmincemoyer.com.

Eric H Troffkin received his BA from Amherst College, Amherst, MA, 1991, and his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 1995. Exhibitions include solo shows at Good Citizen Gallery, St. Louis and Walden Gallery, New York, NY; and group exhibitions at Wayne State University, Detroit; Metropolitan Gallery, St. Louis; Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati; Sheldon Art Galleries, St. Louis; Monk Parakeet/The Suburban, Chicago; White Columns, NY; and Roebbling Hall, Brooklyn, among many others. He attended Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris in 2004 and is currently Assistant Professor of Sculpture at Wayne State University, Detroit.

Images:

Page 1, from left: Carin Mincemoyer, *Model Landscape 27*, mixed media sculpture; B.j Vogt, *A Human Geology* (detail), cardboard and foamboard installation; Cameron Fuller, *From the Collection of the Institute for the Perpetuation of Imaginal Processes* (detail), mixed media installation; Eric Troffkin, *Petal Dish*, mixed media sculpture.

Page 2, from left: Karen McCoy, *My Body As Cap Canaille*, body print and drawing with red pigment found on Cap Canaille; David Johnson, *Kerrville*, color photograph; Jamie Kreher, *Chesterfield*, c-print.

Charlotte Street Foundation is dedicated to making Kansas City a place where artists and art thrive. Through its Urban Culture Project initiative, 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. For more information, visit www.charlottestreet.org.