



From left: Andrea Flamini, Rain Harris, Melissa Eder

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Charlotte Street Foundation’s Paragraph gallery (an Urban Culture Project venue) presents
THE DINING ROOM PROJECT: A POTLUCK SMORGASBORD
March 18 – May 7, 2011**

**A component of
THE DINING ROOM PROJECT
An Epsten Gallery/Museum Without Walls Community Program
Initiated by The Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art**

***The Dining Room Project
(A Potluck Smorgasbord)***
Paragraph Gallery: March 18–May 7, 2011
Opening reception:
Friday, March 18, 6–9pm
23 E. 12th Street, KC, MO 64105
Gallery hours:
12-5pm Wed, Fri, & Sat; 11-6 Thurs.

Contact: Contact: Kate Hackman,
Associate Director
Charlotte Street Foundation
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www.charlottestreet.org

***The Dining Room Project
(Art, Food & the Ritual of Eating)***
Epsten Gallery: March 20–May 15, 2011
Opening reception:
Sunday, March 20, 2–4pm
5500 W. 123rd Street, OP, KS 66209
Gallery hours:
11am-4pm Tues-Fri; 1-4pm Sat-Sun

Contact: Marcus Cain, Curator
Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art
Epsten Gallery | Museum Without Walls
913.266.8413 | mcain@kcjmca.org
www.kcjmca.org

Kansas City, MO / Overland Park, KS —Comprised of two exhibitions and more than 30 original events featuring over 50 participants, as well as a cookbook/catalogue, *The Dining Room Project* considers our multifaceted relationship with food and intersections of food and art. With this expansive project, the dining room serves as a platform for the exploration of such issues as hunger, sustenance, consumption, taste, public health, sustainability, cultural symbolism and rituals within various traditions, and food and the meal’s usefulness as vehicle for communication, creative expression, and activism.

As a partner and collaborator on this project, Charlotte Street's Paragraph gallery (an Urban Culture Project venue) will be a site for research, installations, conversations, and a diverse range of activities, events, performances, presentations, and meals. It will feature artworks, from video and installation to placesettings and centerpieces, by artists including Andrea Flamini, Melissa Eder, PEASANTRY (Jessy Abid, Lee Heinemann, Cheyenne Craig), Megan Mantia and Christopher Norman Good, Meredith Host, Stephanie Kantor, Ryan Fletcher, Dame Osaurus, Paul Donnelly, Rain Harris, Julie Malen, Abbe Findley, Kerstin Kolbe, and (later in the show) Kate Clark, Aaron Storck, and Lisa Marie Evans. The centerpiece of the show is a 16-foot handcrafted dining room table by Peter Warren, around which many activities will take place, while a kitchen created by Design Ranch (with support from Custom Color) will provide a more casual gathering space, including a place for visitors to post recipes and photos of favorite meals.

This ***Dining Room Project: Potluck Smorgasbord*** begins with an opening reception on **March 18, 6-9pm**, featuring several one-time only offerings, including a sampling of traditional Spanish Tapas by chef Carmen Cobia presented on *Tapas Micros* custom porcelainware by artist Ryan Fletcher, as well as a *Super-taster Secret Society* induction ceremony by Megan Mantia and Christopher Norman Good, for those with particularly sensitive palettes, and Corrina West's Chocolate Fairy, delivering high-quality chocolate for good health.

New programming will be featured every week, including off-site tours, dinners and excursions. Visit www.charlottestreet.org for a full schedule of events (in progress) to occur at both Paragraph and Epsten galleries, and watch for updates as well as new documentation of activities each week. And visit www.kcjmca.org for more about the project as a whole, including the parallel exhibition at Epsten Gallery, featuring dozens of additional artists.

THE DINING ROOM PROJECT is ...

- Two thematic group exhibitions at the Paragraph Gallery **March 18-May 7, 2011** and the Epsten Gallery **March 20-May 15, 2011** featuring artists from our region alongside established artists from around the country and beyond. Each gallery will also serve as a Harvesters collection site for the community to build a food-bank to be donated to the region's needy residents
- A collaborative partnership between KCJMCA and the Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project offering a community-driven, eight-week "meal" of installations, activities, discussions, screenings, workshops, excursions, performances, an array of dining experiences at Epsten and Paragraph galleries.
- 80-page catalogue/cookbook featuring work by exhibiting artists, recipes by well-known Kansas City visual artists and contributed text by food writer Charles Ferruzza, art historian Sherry Cromwell-Lacy, CSF Associate Director Kate Hackman, and KCJMCA Curator Marcus Cain.



From left: Meredith Host, BREAD!, Julie Malen

Charlotte Street Foundation

1000 West 25th Street
Kansas City MO 64108
816.221.5115
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.

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

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.