

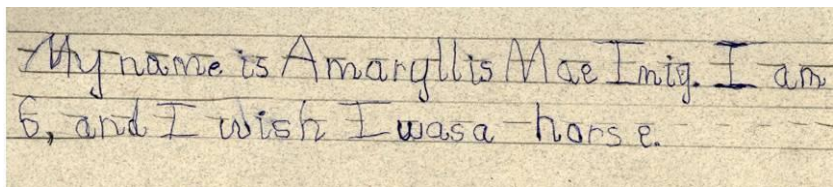
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Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project Space presents

STRANGERS LIKE US

*New bodies of work by Kansas City artists Summer Farrar and Cory Imig
explore extended families and ideas of lineage*



Clockwise, from left: Summer Farrar, *Sign of the Beast*, 2010, embroidery on found fabric; Cory Imig, details of correspondence from *Written Maps*, 2008-11, an interdisciplinary project.

STRANGERS LIKE US: SUMMER FARRAR AND CORY IMIG

Opening reception: Friday, September 16, 6-9pm

Artists talk: Saturday, September 17, noon

Location: Project Space (a Charlotte Street Foundation Urban Culture Project venue)

Address: 21 East 12th Street, Kansas City MO 64105

Exhibition runs: September 16-November 5, 2011

Gallery hours: Wed, Fri, Sat 12-5pm; Thurs 11-6

Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project Space presents *Strangers Like Us*, a two person exhibition featuring new bodies of work by emerging Kansas City-based artists Summer Farrar and Cory Imig. Bringing together a series of mixed media on fabric pieces by Farrar with documents and artifacts of *Written Maps*, an ongoing, interdisciplinary project by Imig, this show considers how we define our families, how our families define us, and how extending our definitions of family might connect us with "strangers like us."

Summer Farrar presents a series of pieces composed of found fabrics, embroidery and paint that are inspired by dreams and events from her own life. Portraying a variety of characters representative of family members, friends, and strangers, they also feature hand-stitched marks and imagery alluding to character traits, emotional states, and histories real and imagined.

Using repurposed fabric, Farrar plays off preexisting patterns, holes and stains as she slowly builds her pieces, which enhances the dream-like quality of these works: her figures have the quality of ghosts, emerging from the shadows of the materials themselves and existing together in an intimate, psychologically charged space. Hanging the pieces in groupings, Farrar further enhances their sense of inter-connectness, giving tangible form to the manner in which we construct extended families of sorts for ourselves within our minds from a matrix of memories, fantasies, and associations.

In 2008, **Cory Imig** wrote personal letters to everyone in the country with the last name "Imig" that she could locate through a search on whitepages.com: 278 individuals. In response, she received nearly 100 letters back, in which these other Imigs shared personal stories, family histories, and photographs, which Cory Imig posted to a project blog. While driven less by the genealogical aspect of the project than by the idea of connecting with strangers related in some manner, in this case by name, she discovered through the process that, in fact, only one Imig family had come to America from Germany in the early 1800's, meaning that she and all of these American Imigs are, at least distantly, blood-related.

Exemplifying her ongoing interest in investigating and recording everyday situations, and organizing and categorizing information, for *Strangers Like Us* Imig will present materials related to and generated through this project, including catalogued letters and photographs, web-based research, and documents that painstakingly chart the information she has gathered, including tracking locations, professions, and relationships.

In addition, she mailed postcards to all locatable Imigs (since beginning the project, the number of Imig's listed on whitepages.com has grown from 278 to 650, suggesting that the artist has successfully spurred an Imig-family conversation), inviting them to the opening of the exhibition and encouraging them to reach out to Imig's who have changed their names as well. As such, the exhibition itself will open as a real-time experiment and, one hopes, manifestation of the artist's intent to identify previously unobserved relationships in a manner that spurs new conversations and possibilities.

About the artists:

Summer Farrar was born in Wichita, Kansas. She graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute with a BFA in Fiber and currently lives and works in Kansas City.



Above: Summer Farrar, *Mom*, 2009, embroidery and watercolor on silk; *Orlando*, 2011, embroidery and paint on cotton.
Below: Cory Imig, compiled found images of Imigs, 2011.



Cory Imig is an interdisciplinary artist currently working in Kansas City, Missouri. She received her BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design in 2008, where she studied fibers and sculpture, and later attended residencies at Virginia Commonwealth University and The Vermont Studio Center. Her work has been exhibited at a range of venues in Savannah, Richmond, and the Kansas City area. She is the recipient of a Charlotte Street Foundation Urban Culture Project Studio Residency (2010-11) and, with four collaborating artists, of a Rocket Grant to support PLUG projects, a new venue in Kansas City's West Bottoms that aims to energize artists and the community at large by exhibiting challenging new work, initiating critical dialogue, and expanding connections of artists in Kansas City as part of a wider, national network of artists. Visit www.coryimig.com for more information.

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.