

For immediate release

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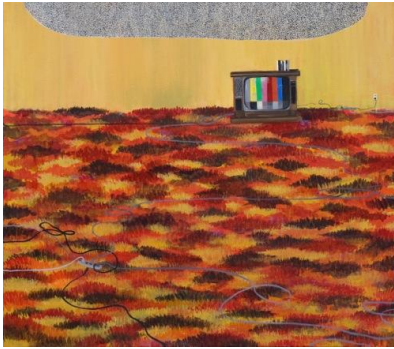
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Charlotte Street Foundation presents

Have I been here before?

Organized by Charlotte Street Curator-in-residence Jamilee Polson Lacy



(Images: Amy Kligman *Test Pattern*, 2012; Mike Sinclair Katz *Drug Company Building Westport Road + Main Street*, 2012; and Jarrett Mellenbruch *Convenerunt in Unum*, 2010)

What is it about a place that makes it instantly recognizable? Is it a certain style of architecture? Could it be the townspeople? Perhaps it is the local food? Or rather, is it us who makes a place familiar? Do our experiences follow along wherever we go? Is it possible that our memories of place compress so that every place becomes one? These questions and more are pondered in *Have I been here before?*, the first exhibition organized by Charlotte Street Foundation's inaugural Curator-In-Residence, Jamilee Polson Lacy.

Have I been here before?

Date: Opening Reception, November 2, 7-11pm, FREE

Location: la Esquina / 1000 W 25th St. KCMO 64108

Exhibition Runs: November 2 - December 22, 2012

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

Exhibition Website: www.haveibeenherebefore.virb.com

Public programs: for event details visit www.haveibeenherebefore.virb.com; all events are FREE and open to the public

- **November 2, 7-11pm – Opening Reception** with [BREAD! KC](#) serving drinks from their **Liquid Bread** cart, an artwork tailored to the exhibition's conceptual premise
- **November 9, 2pm** – collaborative **curator's tour of exhibition**
- **December 8, 6-8pm** – featured writers' **public reading and potluck** reception

Featuring artwork by:

[Robert Josiah Bingamin](#)

[Maria Calderon](#)

[Jonah Criswell](#)

[Archie Scott Gobber](#)

[John Ferry](#)

[Amy Kligman](#)

[Heather Lamanno](#)

[Judith G. Levy](#)

[BREAD! KC](#)

[Jarrett Mellenbruch](#)

[Yoonmi Nam](#)

[Johnny Naugahyde](#)

[Ah-ram Park](#)

[Lee Piechocki](#)

[Erin Russell](#)

[Mike Sinclair](#)

[Jaimie Warren](#)

Have I been here before? brings together Kansas City-specific and not-so-specific moments, memories and histories in an attempt to capture what is just so familiar about this place, that place or any place. The exhibition features the work of Kansas City-area visual and conceptual artists who combine real places with false memories and exaggerated perceptions to create sites and situations that may be vaguely familiar to viewers. Each displayed artwork contributes to a vast and varied view of the local urban landscape and draws attention to the real and imagined territories navigated by city-dwellers and travelers alike. While much of the show incorporates found sources originating in and around Kansas City, a considerable portion of the installation relies extensively on artistic chimera to highlight the strange, even fantastical elements of the urban experience attributable to déjà vu, mis-remembering and recollections of grandeur.

Drawing further comparison between the historical and illusory qualities of the city-place, *Have I been here before?* also features personal and collective remembrances and stories from local writers and thinkers. Put in writing just for this exhibition, these old memories, fresh interpretations, and critical analyses of the greater Kansas City locale, as well as travels in and out of the area, add another dimension to this exploration of place and memory. Featured writing ranges from travelogues and historical accounts to short fictions and non-fictions recounting the lives of place-dwellers. Excerpts from each piece of writing are scrawled along the gallery walls, operating both in tandem with displayed artworks and as ancillary reading throughout the exhibition's installation. The complete texts, artist biographies, and a curatorial essay are presented in a **limited edition poster publication** designed by UMKC students Karen Daugherty, Erik Mitchell and Aamina Nahlawi. This publication is available exclusively at la Esquina throughout the run of the show.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET'S CURATORIAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Through its new Curatorial Residency Program, Charlotte Street Foundation is creating opportunities for outstanding emerging curators from around the country to immerse themselves in the arts ecosystem of the Kansas City region. The program provides multi-faceted support for an annually selected curator-in-residence to develop and present original contemporary arts programming responsive to and inclusive of the work of Kansas City-area artists. Teaching partnerships with the Department of Art and University of Missouri-Kansas City and Kansas City Art Institute further connect the curator-in-residence with area art students.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET'S 2012-13 CURATOR-IN-RESIDENCE

[Jamilee Polson Lacy](#) of Chicago, Illinois is the inaugural Curator-In-Residence for Charlotte Street Foundation. As the Curator-In-Residence, she will organize three exhibitions and publications for la Esquina over the course of one year. Lacy founded and directs Chicago's [Twelve Galleries Project](#), a transitory, collaborative exhibition experiment. Her independent curatorial projects focus on the visions, colors, histories and ideas shared between authors, architects and artists, while her artwork and writing searches for what is lost and gained between text, image, and object. She has engaged in solo and collaborative projects with numerous creatives and institutions, including A+D Gallery at Columbia College Chicago, The Black Visual Archive, Chicago Artists' Coalition & Hatch Projects, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Hyde Park Art Center, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and Quite Strong, among others. Publications include *Color: Fully Engaged* and numerous exhibition essays and interviews. Lacy holds two undergraduate degrees in studio arts and art history and a Masters of Comparative Literature and Arts from Northwestern University.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET

Over 15 years, Charlotte Street has challenged, nurtured, and empowered thousands of artists, distributed over \$775,000 in awards and grants to artists and their projects, and connected individual artists to each other and to the greater Kansas City community. Charlotte Street – with its community of artists – strives to be a primary catalyst in making Kansas City a vibrant, creative metropolis, alive with collaboration, passion, ideas, and surprise. For more information about Charlotte Street, its awards, programs, and initiatives, visit www.charlottestreet.org