

For immediate release

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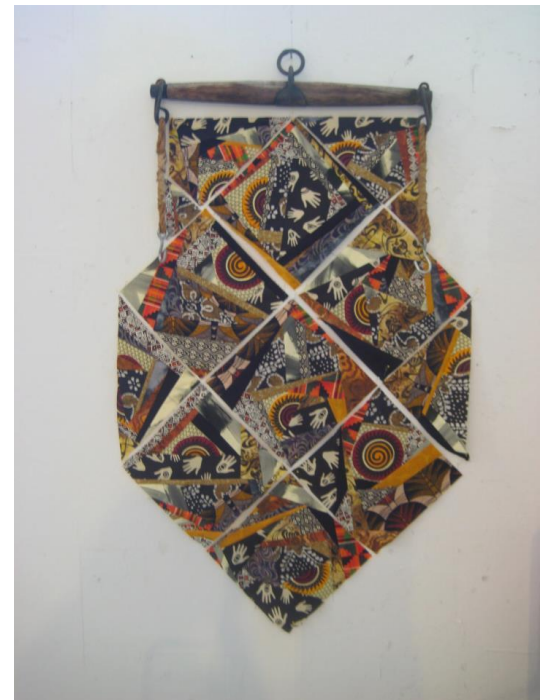
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**Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Award Fellow Sonie Ruffin  
to speak about 2012 Art Omi International Artists Residency**

***Through Charlotte Street's partnership with Art Omi, Ruffin was awarded fully funded  
three week artist residency in Upstate New York, summer 2012,  
where she connected with artists from around the world***



**Date:** Wednesday, **October 24, 7pm**

**Location:** [American Jazz Museum](#), Gem Theatre, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor board room / 1616 East 18th Street, KCMO 64108

**Free and open to the public**

On Wednesday October 24, 7pm at the American Jazz Museum, Kansas City based fabric artist [Sonié Joi Ruffin](#) will speak about her experience and the work she created at the highly prestigious [Art Omi International Artist Residency](#) program this past summer in Upstate New York.

Each summer, 30 visual artists from around the world are selected to attend Art Omi, where they are provided with a studio, living quarters, and meals, and immersed in a stimulating atmosphere where exchange, experimentation, discourse and collaboration are encouraged. Each year, a different critic-in-residence lives on campus with the artists, leading discussions and making one-on-one studio visits. In addition, residents are visited by prominent critics, gallerists, curators, and artists who travel to Art Omi each summer. The residency culminates with an Open Studios day open to the general public.

“Every year, when we invite thirty artists, often coming from more than twenty different countries--and most importantly from diverse media, ages, stages of career--we defy political, cultural, ethnic and generational boundaries, and encourage our residents to do the same, to abandon their comfortable zone and seek new perspectives,” said Claudia Cannizzaro, director of the Art Omi residency. “It is the synergic mix of artists that makes Art Omi so special, so unique; it is our artists that make our residency one of the most desired in the world.”

“My Art Omi experience was inspiring and creative,” says Ruffin. “The group of artists that attended were phenomenal, and left a profound impact on my being!”

Support for the Charlotte Street Art Omi International Artist Residency was provided by Susan and Jim Moore; Colliers International; William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee; and the ArtsKC Fund. For more about Art Omi, visit [www.artomi.org](http://www.artomi.org).

#### **ABOUT SONIE JOI RUFFIN:**

Sonié Joi Ruffin is an award winning fabric artist, born, raised and educated in Joplin, MO. She is a self-taught fabric artist, in whose quilt-inspired art there is an inter-stitching not just of fabric but of community and culture. Her quilts draw from a centuries old wellspring that explores humanity through the crux of the African American experience. Her designs are improvisational and intuitive; she paints and embellishes fabric, incorporating the boldness of African fabric, mixed with hand dyed or commercial print fabrics.

Sonié is a 2010 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Award Fellow and recipient of Kansas Master’s 2010 /11, and the 2012 “Women to Watch: Fiber and Textiles”. She has led workshops and lectures on African American quilting at the Smithsonian’s American Art Museum’s Renwick Gallery, Flint Library Museum, Guldner Gallery, the Nerman Museum, Kansas City Museum, the Nelson Atkins Museum, and the American Jazz Museum. Her artwork has been exhibited at the Truman Medical Center Healing Arts Gallery, the Rozier Museum, Carter Art Center, Lincoln University, International Quilt Market, Leedy Voulkos Art Center and the New England Quilt Museum.

Her artwork can be found in the collections of galleries, museums, private and corporate collections. Her fabric collections “My African Village and Drums of Afrika” have appeared in national magazines. To her credit, she is the author of “Soulful Art of African American Quilts and Opening Day” published by Kansas City Star Quilt book division.

Sonié is presently the visiting curator for the American Jazz Museums’ Changing Gallery; in the historical 18th and Vine Jazz District located in Kansas City, MO.

#### **ART OMI 2012 ARTISTS & CRITIC IN RESIDENCE:**

The 2012 Art Omi residents included artists from more than 20 countries. They were: Noor Al Suwaidi, United Arab Emirates; Bado, Italy; Santiago Borja, Mexico; Carlos Castro, Colombia; Noa Charuvi, Israel/United States; Blue Curry, The Bahamas/United Kingdom; Agathe de Bailliencourt, France/Germany; Bembol dela Cruz, Philippines; Ahmed el Shaer, Egypt; Rosemarie Fiore, United States; Han Seok Hyun, South Korea; Samah Hijawi, Jordan; Ivelisse Jimenez, Puerto Rico; Sang-bin Kang, South Korea; Jayson Keeling, United States; Kakyong Lee, South Korea/United States; Lia Lapithi, Cyprus; Frank Martinez Gonzalez, Cuba; Jasmina Metwaly, Poland/Egypt; Mrugen Rathod, India; Erik Olofsen, The Netherlands; Zohra Opoku, Ghana/Germany; Gamaliel Rodriguez, Puerto Rico; Sonie Ruffin, United States; Salvatore Scalora, Italy; Alexander Seton, Australia; Matt Shane, Canada; Jay Shinn, United States; Els Vanden Meersch, Belgium; Andy Webster, United Kingdom.

The Critic in Residency was Saul Ostrow is a critic and curator and Art Editor at Large, Bomb Magazine.

#### **ART OMI 2012 STUDIO VISITORS:**

Every summer Art Omi invites art professionals to visit for a day to conduct studio visits with the residents. 2012 Visitors included Bruce Chechetsky, Artist, Director of the Reinberger Galleries Cleveland Institute of Art; Catherine Morris, Curator, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum; Dominique Nahas, Critic, Art Omi board member; Elga Wimmer, Curator, Gallerist; Felicity Hogan, Artist, Curator, Program Officer, New York Foundation for the Arts; George Ciscle, Director, MFA in Curatorial Practice, Maryland Institute College of Art; Jan Castro, Art Historian and Critic; Jennie Lamensdorf, Curator, Francis Greenburger Collection; Jonathan Goodman, Critic; Kathleen Triem, Architect, Art Omi board member; Kari Conte, Program Director, ISCP; Koan Jeff Baysa, Independent Curator, Art Omi board member; Larissa Harris, Curator, Queens Museum; Marco Antonini, Curator, Director Nurture Art; Manuel Orellana, Artist; Margaret Evangeline, Alumna, Art Omi board member; Marysol Nieves, Curator, Consultant to the Bronx Museum; Meenakshi Thirukode, Independent Curator; Niels Van Tomme, Independent Curator; Paul Laster; Peter Franck, Architect, Art Omi board member; Renee Riccardo; Regine Basha, Independent Curator; Rupert Goldsworthy; Sandi Slone, Alumna, Art Omi board member; Sandra Skurvida, Art Historian, Independent Curator; Sara Reisman, Director, Percent For Art, Art Omi board member; Sina Najafi, Senior Editor, Cabinet; Stephen Westfall, Artist, Contributing Editor, Art in America; Wendy Vogel, Independent Curator; Yasmin Ramirez, Independent Curator.

### **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](http://www.charlottestreet.org)

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