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Charlotte Street Foundation Presents

Composite Structures

Organized by Charlotte Street Curator-In-Residence Jamilee Polson Lacy
With special guest curator Lee Foley



Images: Barry Anderson. *Fragments of Space [CT3]*, 2012; Jaclyn Senne. *water volleyball splashguard/crisp planar transparent sheets slide in/before lanes of seasoned flag lines*, 2011; Scott Hocking. *Mondrian building*, 2009

Composite Structures brings together artists who combine architectonics drawn from a range of art and architectural sources to create singular works of art. The exhibition comprises two subtitled parts: **Mending Fences**, curated by Charlotte Street Curator-In-Residence Jamilee Polson Lacy, which showcases Midwestern artists who apply multiple layers and manipulations—some conceptual, some formal—to the ideas of Modernist architects which feature prominently within the Midwestern urban landscape; and **Low Accumulations**, curated by Lee Foley, which includes Los Angeles-based artists who use assemblage and design to reflect a post-structural viewpoint and an urban sensibility unique to Southern California. *Composite Structures* additionally features a **library and workspace** offering another platform for exploring interchanges between art and architecture across localities and communities.

Date: Opening Reception, **January 18**, 6-9pm, FREE

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

Exhibition Runs: **January 18 - March 2, 2013**

Exhibition Website: www.compositestructures.virb.com

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

- January 18, 6-9pm – Opening Reception
- January 19, 2pm – collaborative curators’ tour of exhibition
- February 23, 2pm – “To Scale”, an investigation of model making
- February, 26, 6-8pm – “Making with Architecture” panel discussion

Featuring artists from the Midwest and Los Angeles:

Kansas City - [Elvis Achelpohl](#), [Leandra Burnett](#), and [Sarah Murphy](#); [Barry Anderson](#); and [Jaclyn Senne](#)

Chicago - [Jeff Carter](#) and [Susan Giles](#)

Cincinnati - [Chris Vorhees](#)

Detroit - [Scott Hocking](#)

Los Angeles - [Eduardo Consuegra](#), [Sonja Gerdes](#), [Marina Pinsky](#), and J Patrick Walsh III

Composite Structures: Mending Fences

Mending Fences operates from this distinctly Bauhaus dialectical thought: Discord is necessary to the pursuit of harmony. The Midwestern artists featured show a multiplicity of differing, conflicting, even contradictory currents on what can be salvaged from the Midwestern Modernist utopia. Referencing the likes of European Bauhaus transplants Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, each artwork recalls Modernist environments built for maximum productivity—creative, social or otherwise—and infuses them with 21st-century Midwestern notions of pleasure, pragmatism and the ability to make do. In turn, **Mending Fences** reveals where the Midwestern artist's sense of recent art and architectural history intersects with the capacity to create something new.

Composite Structures: Low Accumulations

Low Accumulations explores and deconstructs the tropes of an idealized Southern California lifestyle as defined by mid-century modernist architects. Artists Eduardo Consuegra, Sonja Gerdes, Marina Pinsky, and J Patrick Walsh III use assemblage tactics to build contextual grounding for a more adaptive approach to Los Angeles. In these works, appreciation for streamlined aesthetics merges with acceptance of smoggy skylines, strip malls, late nights in east L.A., traffic. Self-reflective compositions of aggregated material evoke the inefficiencies of life in L.A. and everywhere else. **Low Accumulations** suggests that one must synthesize a personal methodology or lifestyle with materials at hand.

Composite Structures Library/Workspace

At the entrance of *Composite Structures*, the curators have commissioned the design and construction of a **library and workspace** by Kansas City-based artists Elvis Achelpohl, Leandra Burnett and Sarah Murphy. This functional structure provides yet another site within the exhibition for reflection on history, innovative thought and critical dialogue across locations and communities. The library, curated by Lacy and Foley for public perusal, contains a selection of publications, documents and objects highlighting interchanges between art and architecture. Additionally showcasing the convergence of the two disciplines right here in Kansas City, the workspace hosts a number of local practitioners to contribute to the trajectories presented with *Composite Structures*.

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 CURATOR-IN-RESIDENCE JAMILEE POLSON LACY

[Jamilee Polson Lacy](#) of Chicago 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 [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*, *EPIC SOMETHING* and numerous exhibition essays, interviews and online articles. Lacy holds two undergraduate degrees in studio arts and art history and a Masters of Comparative Literature and Arts from Northwestern University.

SPECIAL GUEST CURATOR LEE FOLEY

Lee Foley is an artist, curator and writer living and working in Los Angeles. Foley is a founding member and co-director of [Actual Size Los Angeles](#), an artist-run gallery that has curated over 25 exhibitions since April 2010. Actual Size collaborates with established and emerging artists alike to activate the exhibition space and engage the public in the culture of the artists' work. Events range from solo and group exhibitions to performative

projects that make use of the space as a multi-faceted resource for artists. *Actual Size* has been reviewed in the *L.A. Weekly*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Mousse Magazine*, *Art Forum Critics' Picks* and *Flash Art International*.

Foley holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art History, Theory and Criticism from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She also works as an educator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Her practice investigates curatorial methodology as an extension of studio practice. Recently, Foley was selected to participate in the Node Center for Curatorial Studies summer 2012 residency program in Berlin, Germany. She presented artwork at *The Subterraneans: The artists behind LA's artist-run spaces* at the Torrance Art Museum in September 2012.

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

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