

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *The Dining Room Project*, March 18 – May 15, 2011
An Epsten Gallery/Museum Without Walls Community Program
Initiated by The Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art
In Partnership with Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project.



Left to right: Aaron Stork; Victor Vazquez (courtesy Seraphin Gallery); Dame Osaurus; PEASANTRY; Tom Gregg (courtesy George Billis Gallery)

Contact: Marcus Cain, Curator
Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art
Epsten Gallery | Museum Without Walls
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The Dining Room Project
(Art, Food & the Ritual of Eating)
Epsten Gallery: 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

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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

Kansas City, MO / Overland Park, KS —The purpose of *The Dining Room Project* is to provide a series of meaningful forums in which the public may contemplate its multifaceted relationship with food and art. The traditions, formalities, and conviviality of the domestic dining room become a platform for the exploration of issues of hunger, sustenance, and consumption, the origins of food, its history of cultural symbolism within various traditions, and its usefulness as a vehicle for communication and creative expression. *The Dining Room Project* features over 30 original events and more than 50 participants from Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, New York, California, Washington, and Puerto Rico. **For a complete eight-week schedule of events, visit www.kcjmca.org and www.charlottestreet.org.**

The Dining Room Project is ...

- Two thematic group exhibitions at Paragraph Gallery **March 18–May 7, 2011** and 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 published by KCJMCA 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, KCJMCA Curator Marcus Cain, and CSF Associate Director Kate Hackman.

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.

Charlotte Street Foundation
Urban Culture Project
1000 West 25th Street
Kansas City MO 64108
816.221.5115
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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.

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