

Charlotte Street Foundation 2010 Visual Artist Awards Exhibition

2010 Awards Recipients:

Ari Fish, Sonié Ruffin, Caleb Taylor

Opening Reception:

First Friday, September 3rd, 6-9PM at Grand Arts

Gallery Talk with the artists:

Saturday, September 4th, 2PM

September 3 – October 30, 2010



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2010

Grand Arts is pleased to host this year's Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards exhibition featuring the 2010 recipients: **Ari Fish**, **Sonié Ruffin** and **Caleb Taylor**. Please join us in honoring these artists at an opening reception from 6-9PM on First Friday, September 3rd at Grand Arts and on Saturday, September 4th at 2PM for a gallery talk with the artists. The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public. The exhibition will be on view through Saturday, October 30, 2010. Each of the awarded artists has produced new work for the exhibition.

Ari Fish will unveil a new series of garments in the context of an ethereal video installation. Fish's multi-channel video will be projected onto white silk banners combined with an original sound track to create a meditative, immersive space. The videos feature a group of people practicing Qigong clad in matching robes constructed by Fish. Fish is interested in Qigong for spiritual meditation and exercise as well as the aesthetics of the experience, which she is outfitting.

Sonié Ruffin will show a range of new and recent quilts and fabric pieces. A large-scale, abstract, quilted triptych, *Wynton Marsalis' Conversation with Jazz*, 2007, will be the centerpiece of Ruffin's installation. Flanking this piece will be new works exploring surface design through direct application of pigment, paint and screen-printed images including the personal diatribe, *Mammogram*, 2010. Also included in Ruffin's portion of the gallery is the black and ivory homage to the Kansas City Monarchs' Negro Leagues Baseball dynasty

called *Home Run*, 2009 from her second book “Opening Day”, which was created with a fabric Ruffin designed called “Drums of Afrika”.

Caleb Taylor has created several new bodies of work since winning the Charlotte Street Award. Among Taylor’s new works on view will be a large-scale drawing realized in aluminum. For this piece Taylor sought assistance from A. Zahner Company to cut and shape the aluminum, which will be painted and mounted to the gallery wall, giving his gestural line greater scale and dimension. Taylor’s installation will also include drawings from his *Covered*, *White Window* and *Gesture Knot* series.

This exhibition is accompanied by a brochure essay by Lacey Wozny, Grand Arts assistant director.

Images (left to right): Ari Fish, *Speak and Spell, Show and Tell*, 2010. Multi-media installation.

Sonié Ruffin, *Wynton Marsalis’ Conversation with Jazz*, 2007. Triptych, hand-dyed cotton, 8ft. x 7ft.

Caleb Taylor, *White Window VIII*, 2010. Acrylic, gouache, pencil on paper, 22in. x 30in.

Artist Biographies

Ari Fish’s work bridges fine art and fashion, spanning from conceptually-driven costume and clothing design to drawing, performance, and installation. Her creations have been featured in contexts including Tompkins Projects, a time-based clothing boutique in New York, NY (2010); Chicks on Speed Pop-up Shop, Barcelona, Spain; Kunstverein Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany; West Eighteenth Street Fashion Show and Urban Culture Project’s Paragraph Gallery, Kansas City. She has been a costume designer for Peaches’ “Billionaire” music video and “I Feel Cream” tour; Hunx and His Punx, San Francisco, CA; Hawney Troof, Los Angeles, CA; Dat Politics, Berlin, Germany; Tilly and the Wall, Omaha, NE; multiple performances by Mark Southerland, Kansas City; and for SSION, including the SSION film “BOY.” Fish recently appeared as a contestant on the television series “Project Runway.” She received her BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2006.

Sonié Ruffin creates fabric artworks that push textile and quilting traditions in new directions to tell contemporary stories of personal, cultural and community identity and experience. Ruffin studied at Traphagen School of Design, New York, NY; Arizona State University, Tempe Arizona; and Missouri Southern State College, Joplin, MO. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at the American Jazz Museum, Kansas City, MO; Burkina Faso International Fiber; Portfolio Gallery, St. Louis, MO; Madras Gallery, Los Angeles; Carter Art Center, Vine Street Studio, and Bruce R. Watkins Center, all in Kansas City, MO. Ruffin’s work has also been presented in group exhibitions at venues including Urban Culture Project’s la Esquina, Kansas City, MO, and the National and International Quilt Markets in Salt Lake City, UT and Houston, TX; and was included in “Threads of Africa,” which travelled to the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Lincoln University of Missouri, and Tanzania, Africa. Ruffin has led workshops and lectures throughout the region and nation including: Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Renwick Gallery, Washington D.C.; Maafa & Ebony Quilters, New York, NY; Storytellers in Cloth, Hartford, CN; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at Johnson County Community College; the Kansas City Public Library and Kansas City Museum. Her work is included in the collections of the Spencer Museum of Art, American Jazz Museum, and Belger Art Center, Truman Medical Center among others. Ruffin is currently the visiting curator for the American Jazz Museum.

Caleb Taylor's current paintings on canvas and paper employ an abstract language that builds tension between concealing and revealing. First creating an energetic gestural painting, Taylor then largely obfuscates this "body" with a "skin" of bold, solid color, leaving small passages of the colorful underpainting exposed, which Taylor describes as "voyeuristic windows." Caleb Taylor received his BFA from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO in 2004 and his MFA from Montana State University in Bozeman, MT, in 2008. His work has been presented in solo and two-person exhibitions at The Late Show and Beggar's Table Gallery in Kansas City, Snowflake/Citystock in St. Louis, and at the Helen E. Copeland Gallery, Emerson Center for Art and Culture, and the Waller-Yoblonsky Gallery, all in Bozeman, MT. His work has also been included in group shows at venues including Brooklyn Gallery, New York, NY; Urban Culture Project's Paragraph Gallery, Kansas City, MO; Dolphin Gallery, Kansas City, MO; CUE Art Foundation, New York, NY; Danforth Gallery, Livingston, MT; and Long Beach Art Foundation, Loveladies, NJ. Taylor completed a residency at Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT in 2009, and was an Urban Culture Project Studio Resident at pARTnership Place. He is the recipient of a Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant and an Arts KC Inspiration Grant.

Charlotte Street Foundation Mission

The mission of Charlotte Street Foundation (CSF) is to create an environment in Kansas City in which artists and art thrive. CSF supports and recognizes outstanding artists in Kansas City; presents, promotes, enhances, and encourages the visual and performing arts; and fosters economic development in the urban core of Kansas City, MO. On all levels, CSF places artists at the center of its mission and has built an infrastructure that depends on and reflects their involvement. As a result, we are an organization that continually evolves in response to their input and in relation to the city's larger cultural ecosystem. For more about the Charlotte Street Foundation, visit www.charlottestreet.org

Grand Arts is a non-profit art project space in downtown Kansas City that commissions and assist artists in the production and realization of ambitious contemporary art projects. Functioning as a laboratory, its mission is to provide financial, technical and logistical support to artists while encouraging conceptual risk-taking and experimentation at all stages of the creative process.

Grand Arts gallery hours are Thursday and Friday 10AM – 5PM and Saturday 11AM – 5PM or by appointment.

For more information on this exhibition or Grand Arts, please visit us online at www.grandarts.com, find us on Facebook or contact:

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