

# ELIJAH BURGHER

b. 1978, Kingston, NY

Lives and works in Berlin, DE

## EDUCATION

- 2004 School of The Art Institute of Chicago, MFA
- 2002 School of The Art Institute of Chicago, Post-baccalaureate Certificate
- 2000 Sarah Lawrence College, BA

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Nudes in the Forest*, Ivan Gallery, Bucharest, Romania.
- 2017 *The Dead Know Everything*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *Bachelors*, Zieher Smith + Horton, New York City, NY
- 2013 *Friendship as a way of life b/w I'm seeking the Minotaur*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago,
- 2012 *Elijah Burgher*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago
- 2011 *Elijah Burgher, Topple the Table of Correspondences*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Projects, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Elijah Burgher*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Oak Park, IL

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Sperm Cult*, LAXArt, Hollywood, CA  
*For Today I Am a Boy: Contemporary Queer Abstraction*, Des Moines Art Center, Iowa
- 2018 *For Opacity*, The Drawing Center, New York, NY  
*Intimacy*, curated by Stephen Truax, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, NY  
*AA Bronson's Garten der Lüste*, Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany  
*Catch me if you can! AA Bronson + General Idea, 1968–2018*, Esther Schipper, Berlin, Germany
- 2017 *Press Your Space Face Close to Mine*, curated by Aaron Curry, The Pit, Los Angeles, CA  
*Nandi*, The Condo Association, Chicago, IL  
*Underlying system is not known*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL  
*The Nothing That Is: A Drawing Show in 5 Parts*, curated by Matt Distel and Bill Thelen, The Carnegie, Covington, KY
- 2016 *Mentors*, CFHILL Art Space, Stockholm, Sweden  
*Broken Flag*, curated by Daniel Berger and Omar Kholief, Iceberg Projects, Chicago, IL  
*Elijah Burgher and Anders Rühlwald*, Paris London Hong Kong, Chicago  
*Triple Fantasy*, Third Man Records, Nashville, TN  
*HOMOCCULT 2.0*, curated by s+s project and Perras de Museo. Multiple locations, Mexico City

- Pierre Guyotat - "La matière de nos oeuvres,"* Azzedine Alaïa, Paris, France  
*Language of the Birds: Occult and Art*, curated by Pam Grossman, New York, NY  
*Chicago and Vicinity*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *AA Bronson's Sacre du Printemps*, Grazer Kunstverein, Graz, AT  
*The Nothing That Is: a drawing show in five parts*, curated by Bill Thelen. CAM Raleigh, Raleigh, NC  
*The Gay Mafia is Real*. Western Exhibitions, Chicago  
*River Crossing*, Frederic Edwin Church's Olana, Hudson, New York; Cedar Grove, the Thomas Cole Historic Site, Catskill, NY  
*Shift: Carl Bogner presents Steve Reinke & Elijah Burgher*, Woodland Pattern, Milwaukee, WI  
*Power Objects: The Future Has a Primitive Heart*, UICA, Grand Rapids, MI  
*New American Paintings: Midwest Edition*, curated by Staci Boris, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
- 2014-15 *Go Stand Next to the Mountain*, Hales Gallery, London, England
- 2014 *AA Bronson's House of Shame*, 10th Gwangju Biennale, Republic of Korea  
*Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
*Alms for the Birds*, curated by James Richards, Cabinet, London  
*No fate but what we make*, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN  
*Tony Greene*, curated by John Neff, Iceberg Projects, Chicago, IL  
*In/Situ*, organized by Renaud Proch, Independent Curators International, Expo Chicago  
*Rocket Run: Abstraction from Chicago*. Elder Gallery, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE  
*Das stille Leben des Sammlers Kempinski*, curated by Billy Miller and Christian Siekmeier. Exile, Berlin
- 2013 *The Temptation of AA Bronson*, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
*VERBAL - SOMATIC - MATERIAL*, The Occult Humanities Conference, New York, NY  
*Drawer's Drawing*, curated by Carrie Gundersdorf and Eric Lebofsky, Julius Caesar and Peregrine Program, Chicago, IL  
*Not only this, but 'New language beckons us.'*, Fales Library and Special Collections, NYU. Organized by Andrew Blackley for Visual AIDS.
- 2012 *All Good Things Become Wild and Free*, Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis.  
*The Great Refusal: Taking on New Queer Aesthetics*. Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL.  
*Optotype*, 92YTribeca, New York, NY  
*Steve Reinke & Elijah Burgher*, Lump, Raleigh, NC
- 2011 *Queer Chapel*, Nofound Photofair, Paris, France  
*AA Bronson: Queer Spirits and Other Invocations*, Esther Schipper, Berlin, Germany  
*Millie Wilson & Elijah Burgher*, Iceberg Projects, MDW Fair, Chicago, IL  
*View of Outer Space from an Aquarium*, Famous Accountants, Brooklyn, NY  
*Intimacies*, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL  
*B-b-b-bad*, Anna Kustera Gallery, New York, NY  
*Chromaticism*, NOMA, San Francisco, CA  
*People Don't Like to Read Art*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL  
*A Certain Ratio*, Roots & Culture, Chicago, IL
- 2010 *Who's Yr Shaman?*, Johalla Projects, Chicago, IL  
*Troll*, Envoy Enterprises, New York, NY  
*Engender Trouble*, Iceberg, Chicago, IL  
*Bad at Sports: Don't Piss on Me and Tell Me It's Raining*, Apexart, New York City\_

- 2009 *Magician Logician*, Peregrine Program, Chicago, IL  
*We Must Indeed All Hang Together*, Sullivan Center, Chicago, IL
- 2006 *Bentnames*, Fifty50 Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Group Show*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Oak Park, IL  
*Homo a Go Go*, Multiple venues, Olympia, WA  
*Parliament of Owls*, Upstairs Project Space, Glassell School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
*Hope*, Linda Warren Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2005 *Kelly Williams, Rebecca Walz, Elijah Burgher*, The Suburban, Oak Park, IL  
*Drawn to Drawing*, Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Sketchbook 5*, Chopin Theatre, Chicago\_
- 2004 *Mix Tape*, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL  
*3 on 3*, Higher Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*MFA Show*, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
- 2003 *Chicago 11*, Melvin Art Gallery, Lakeland, FL\_
- 2002 *Post-Baccalaureate Show*, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL\_
- 2000 *Elijah Burgher & Sandra Maffiore*, A\*Space, Bronxville, NY\_

## MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

Publication: *Elijah Burgher's GAYHOUSE #5*, Septembre éditions  
*Ghost Vomit*, drawing blog, Fall 2008-present,  
Contributor, *So Gay!* <http://www.theapt.ca/sogay/index.html>  
Contributor, AA Bronson & Peter Hobbs' *Invocation of the Queer Spirits* publication, Winter 2011  
Contributor, K48 no. 8: ABRK48DBRA, Winter 2011  
Contributor, *Prayers for Children, Issue Two: Ugly Ducklings Come Home*, Summer 2010,  
"A Cataract of Fire & Blood," zine in collaboration with Terence Hannum, Spring 2010.  
"Wild Boys 2: Chapter O" in *Monsters and Dust, Issue No. 1: "Firsts"*, Fall 2009, *BAT Journal*,  
founder, editor, Fall 2006-Fall 2007

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2018 The Art Newspaper. Linda Yablonsky, Gabriella Angeleti, and Victoria Stapley-Brown. "Three shows to see in New York this weekend." October 18, 2018.
- 2017 The Creators Project. Hunter, Laura Hutson. "Masturbation Meets Shamanism in Colorful Patterned Wall Pieces." May 19, 2017.
- 2016 Make It Better. Logan, Liz. "10 Chicago Artists You Should Know." February 22, 2016.

- Secret Behavior. Akel, Joseph. "Signs & Wonders: Elijah Burgher's drawings invoke magic and desire." February 11, 2016.  
Nashville Scene. Hutson, Laura. "Office Crush", January 11, 2016
- 2015 Strange Attractor UK. Keenan, David. *England's Hidden Reverse: A Secret History of the Esoteric Underground*, November 2015.  
Chicago Tribune. Waxman, Lori. "What's new in American painting, here?" August 13, 2015  
Windy City Times. Sanders, Ben. "Artist Elijah Burgher has a magical time." July 14, 2015  
Quiet Lunch. Hurt, Mary. "Bachelors. | A Q&A with Elijah Burgher." June 19, 2015  
Filthy Dreams. Colucci, Emily. "Drinking the Kool-Aid with Elijah Burgher's Bachelors". June 14, 2015.  
Artinfo. Indrisek, Scott. "5 Must-See Gallery Shows". June 12, 2015.  
Artforum.com. Akel, Joseph. "Picks: Elijah Burgher". June 12, 2015.  
Paper Mag. Mesinger, Kate. "It's a Small Art World, After All". May 29, 2015.  
Art F City. Farley, Michael Anthony and Kirsch, Corinna. "This Week's Must-See Art Events: For Goths, Hackers, and Knitters". May 26, 2015.  
Artinfo.com, Indrisek, Scott. "What to See and Buy at the Dallas Art Fair (**Elijah Burgher**)", April 10, 2015  
Inside/Within. Sierzputowski, Kate. "Elijah Burgher's Portable Ritual Spaces", March 2015
- 2014 Huffington Post. Zevitas, Steven. "15 Artists to Watch in 2015 (+ 3)." December 16, 2014  
Hyperallergic. Bronson, AA. "The Autobiography of Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur". September 26, 2014  
New City. Staff. "Art 50 2014: Chicago's Artists' Artists." September 18, 2014  
DAZED. Gavin, Francesca. "10 of the best Chicago artists right now". September 17, 2014  
New City. Burgher, Elijah. "Art Break: Elijah Burgher on Magic and Art". September 1, 2014  
New American Paintings. "Midwest #113, curated by Staci Boris." August-September 2014  
Contemporary Art Daily. "Whitney Biennial 2014 Part 1". May 7, 2014  
Contemporary Art Daily. "Alms for the Birds" at Cabinet". May 3, 2014  
Art in America. Adams, Brooks. "Whitney Biennial 2014". May 1, 2014  
Artforum. Molesworth, Helen. "Whitney Biennial". May 2014  
The New Yorker. Schjeldahl, Peter. "Schjeldahl on the Whitney Biennial, Audio Slideshow". (Reproductions). April  
Phaidon. "Phaidon at the Whitney Biennial". April 24, 2014  
Modern Painters. Fomberg, Jason. "21st Century Sex Magick". (feature). March 2014  
OUT Magazine. Hutt, John. A Gay Ol' Tour of the 2014 Whitney Biennial, March 14, 2014  
Hyperallergic. Vartanian, Hrag. "Whitney Biennial 2014: Anthony Elms on the Second Floor". March 6  
ArtSlant. Honigman, Ana Finel. "Rackroom: As Art and Magic: An Interview with Elijah Burgher". March  
Artinfo. Indrisek, Scott. "This Is Not a Survey: An Incomplete Review of the Whitney Biennial". March 6,  
Memphis Flyer. Townsend, Eileen. "All Souls: "No Fate But What We Make" at Clough-Hanson." March 13, 2014  
New York Times. Cotter, Holland. "One Last Dance in the Old Place. 2014 Whitney Biennial Has New Faces and Interesting Choices" March 6, 2014  
Artinfo. Vogel, Wendy. "Preview: Highlights From the Whitney Biennial 2014." March 5, 2014  
Chicago Magazine. Fomberg, Jason. "A Visit to the Studio of Elijah Burgher." March 4, 2014  
Art in America. Kleijn, Koen. "Review: AA Bronson, Rotterdam at de Witte de With." February 26, 2014  
Chicago Magazine. Fishman, Elly and Fomberg, Jason. "Four Artists to Watch at the Whitney Biennial". February 22, 2014  
New York Times. Gopnik, Blake. "Choose the Artists, Ignore the Critics". February 13, 2014  
Sotheby's Magazine. Loos, Ted. "A Biennial in the Making". February 7, 2014  
Mousee Magazine. Fitzgerald, Alex Philip. "Agenda: The 2014 Whitney Biennial (reproduction)." Issue 42. February-March 2014  
Art Review. Myers, Terry. "Elijah Burgher" (review). January/February 2014  
PINUPS. Issue No. 18 featuring Elijah Burgher. January 2014  
Hero Magazine. Bronson, AA. "AA Bronson selects abstract ceremonial painter Elijah Burgher". October 12, 2014\_

- 2013 Chicago Magazine. Fomberg, Jason. "10 Memorable Art Moments from 2013". December 24, 2013  
Bad at Sports. Blake, Kevin. "Transcending Immediacy: A Conversation with Elijah Burgher". December 16, 2013  
artforum.com. Morris, Matt. "Elijah Burgher" (review). November 25, 2013  
Daily Serving. Miller, Randall "Elijah Burgher: Friendship as a Way of Life b/w I'm Seeking the Minotaur at Western Exhibitions". November 19, 2013  
NYUlocal. Smith, Sydney. "2014 Whitney Biennial Artists Announced." November 18th, 2013  
Chicago Magazine. Fomberg, Jason. "There Are 17 Chicago Artists in the 2014 Whitney Biennial". November 18  
New York Times. Vogel, Carol. "The 2014 Whitney Biennial Is Taking Shape" November 14, 2013  
New City. Miller, Chris. *Review: Elijah Burgher/Western Exhibitions*. November 8, 2013  
artforum.com. Jovanovich, Alex. "Scene and Heard: Bell, Book, and Candle". October 27, 2013  
Chicago Magazine. Fomberg, Jason. "The Insiders' Guide to Art This Fall". October 3, 2013  
VITAMIN D2, New Perspectives in Drawing. Griffin, Jonathan. Phaidon Publishing. 2013.
- 2012 New City. Vélez, Pedro "Eye Exam: Top Art Pics of 2012 in Chicago and the Midwest". Dec. 18, 2012  
Hyperallergic. Eler, Alicia. "Queer Art's not Just About Gender — A Chicago Survey." Nov. 15, 2012  
New City. Stabler, Bert. "Review: The Great Refusal: Taking On New Queer Aesthetics/SAIC Sullivan Galleries".  
 September 18, 2012
- 2011 Chicago Art Magazine. "A Bare Sleight of Hand—Chicago's Occult Artists" by Stephanie  
 Cristello, October 2011.  
Art:21 Blog. "Chris Bogia and the Fire Island Artist Residency" by Rachel Mason, October, 2011.  
New City. "Eye Exam: Personal Spaces" by Gretchen Holmes, September 2011.  
Art:21 Blog. "Gimmie Shelter: Full Frontal" by Marissa Perel, September 2011.
- 2010 Music for Torching. "Elijah Burgher: Sigil Magick and Ritual Snapshots" by Adam Draper, January 2011.  
Secret Beach #2. "Strange Magic" by Liam Warfield, July 2010.  
Hyperallergic. "A First Hand Report from Art Chicago" by Jay Jordan, May 2010.  
New City. "Breakout Artists 2010: Chicago's Next Generation of Image Makers" by Jason  
 Fomberg, April 2010.  
Butt Magazine Blog. "A Conversation with Elijah Burgher About His Queer Magic Paintings,"  
 by Michael Bullock, March 2010.  
Chicago Art Magazine. "Elijah Burgher at Shane Campbell" by Steve Ruiz, January 2010.
- 2009 Lumpen Magazine. "Sullivan Galleries: Show Review" by Brian Wallace, No. 113, Vol. 18, Issue 2, October 2009.  
Time Out Chicago. "We Must Indeed All Hang Together" by Lauren Weinberg, Issue 238.  
New City. "Eye Exam: Witchcraft as Metaphor" by Jason Fomberg, August 13, 2009,

## RESIDENCIES

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 2011  
 Fire Island Artist Residency, 2011



# ELIJAH BURGHER

b. 1978, Kingston, NY

Lives and works in Berlin, DE



*The Dead know everything, 2017. Colored pencil on paper, 16 1/2h x 23 3/8w in*

Elijah Burgher's artwork indoctrinates viewers into a mystical cult of queer sexual energies. He produces small colored pencil drawings, both figurative and abstract, and paintings and prints of sigils. Burgher utilizes ideas from magick and the occult to address sexuality, sub-cultural formation and the history of abstraction. Citing 20th century occultist Austin Osman Spare's system, he creates sigils—emblems to which magical power is imputed. By recombining the letters that spell out a wish into a new symbol, Burgher's pictures of sigils literally encode desire while embodying it abstractly through shape, color and composition. Burgher's drawings of nude men feature his friends and illustrate environments from his daily life, functioning as relics of rituals. They have a quasi-erotic quality, grounding the works' more abstract components in the realm of reality. "At base, I want to know whether an artwork, any artwork, can possess meaning—to truly embody it somehow," Burgher said.

Elijah Burgher was featured in the 2014 *Whitney Biennial*, the 2014 *Gwangju Biennial* (as part of AA Bronson's "House of Shame"), and *The Temptation of AA Bronson* at the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam; had a solo show at Ivan Gallery in Romania in 2018; and will be included in upcoming shows at The Drawing Center in New York City and the Des Moines Art Center in Iowa. He has been a resident at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and the Fire Island Artist Residency. His work has been discussed in *The New York Times*, *Art in America*, *ArtReview*, *Artforum.com* and was included in *VITAMIN D2*, the hardcover survey of contemporary drawing. He received a MFA from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago and a BA from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY. Elijah Burgher is represented by Western Exhibitions in Chicago, Horton Gallery in Dallas, and P.P.O.W in New York City. He lives and works in Berlin.

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