

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*, 2nd 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 Khelif, Iceberg Projects, Chicago, IL
Elijah Burgher and Anders Rühlwald, Paris London Hong Kong, Chicago
Triple Fantasy, Third Man Records, Nashville, TN
HOMOCULT 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 INTO. Griffis, Miles W., "Elijah Burgher and Collaborators Debut 'Sperm Cult' at LAXART." November 13, 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
- Musee 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

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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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