

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 *New Age, New Age:Strategies for Survival*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL
Sperm Cult, LAXArt, Hollywood, CA
Queer Abstraction: Contemporary Queer Abstraction, Des Moines Art Center, IA
- 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
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, 92Y Tribeca, 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

- 2019 [NY Times](#). Will Heinrich, "What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week." January 3 2019.
[ArtNet](#). Sarah Cascone. "Editors' Picks: 11 Things Not to Miss in New York's Art World This Week." January 28, 2019.
[Elephant](#). Charlotte Jansen, "What is Sperm Cult?" March 18 2019.
[Third Coast Review](#). Tom Wawzenek, "Review: Perspectives of 'New Age' Concepts at DePaul Art Museum." May 11, 2019.
- 2018 [INTO](#). Miles W. Griffis, "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](#). Laura Hutson Hunter, "Masturbation Meets Shamanism in Colorful Patterned Wall Pieces." May 19, 2017.
- 2016 [Make It Better](#). Liz Logan, "10 Chicago Artists You Should Know." February 22, 2016.
[Secret Behavior](#). Joseph Akel, "Signs & Wonders: Elijah Burgher's drawings invoke magic and desire." February 11, 2016.
[Nashville Scene](#). Laura Hutson, "Office Crush." January 11, 2016.

- 2015 [Strange Attractor UK](#). David Keenan, "England's Hidden Reverse: A Secret History of the Esoteric Underground." November 2015.
[Chicago Tribune](#). Lori Waxman, "What's new in American painting, here?" August 13, 2015.
[Windy City Times](#). Ben Sanders, "Artist Elijah Burgher has a magical time." July 14, 2015.
[Quiet Lunch](#). Mary Hurt, "Bachelors: A Q&A with Elijah Burgher." June 19, 2015.
[Filthy Dreams](#). Emily Colucci, "Drinking the Kool-Aid with Elijah Burgher's Bachelors." June 14, 2015.
[Artinfo](#). Scott Indrisek, "5 Must-See Gallery Shows." June 12, 2015.
[Artforum.com](#). Joseph Akel, "Picks: Elijah Burgher." June 12, 2015.
[Paper Mag](#). Kate Mesinger, "It's a Small Art World, After All." May 29, 2015.
[Art F City](#). Michael Anthony Farley and Corinna Kirsch, "This Week's Must-See Art Events: For Goths, Hackers, and Knitters." May 26, 2015.
[Artinfo.com](#). Scott Indrisek, "What to See and Buy at the Dallas Art Fair (**Elijah Burgher**)." April 10, 2015.
[Inside/Within](#). Kate Sierzputowski, "Elijah Burgher's Portable Ritual Spaces." March 2015.
- 2014 [Huffington Post](#). Steven Zevitas, "15 Artists to Watch in 2015 (+ 3)." December 16, 2014.
[Hyperallergic](#). AA Bronson, "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](#). Francesca Gavin, "10 of the best Chicago artists right now." September 17, 2014.
[New City](#). Elijah Burgher, "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](#). Brooks Adams, "Whitney Biennial 2014." May 1, 2014.
[Artforum](#). Helen Molesworth, "Whitney Biennial." May 2014.
[The New Yorker](#). Peter Schjeldahl, "Schjeldahl on the Whitney Biennial, Audio Slideshow." April 2014.
[Phaidon](#). "Phaidon at the Whitney Biennial." April 24, 2014.
[Modern Painters](#). Jason Fomberg, "21st Century Sex Magick." (feature) March 2014.
[OUT Magazine](#). John Hutt, "A Gay Ol' Tour of the 2014 Whitney Biennial." March 14, 2014.
[Hyperallergic](#). Hrag Vartanian, "Whitney Biennial 2014: Anthony Elms on the Second Floor." March 6.
[ArtSlant](#). Ana Finel Honigman, "Rackroom: As Art and Magic: An Interview with Elijah Burgher." March 2014.
[Artinfo](#). Scott Indrisek, "This Is Not a Survey: An Incomplete Review of the Whitney Biennial." March 6, 2014.
[Memphis Flyer](#). Eileen Townsend, "All Souls: 'No Fate But What We Make' at Clough-Hanson." March 13, 2014.
[New York Times](#). Holland Cotter, "One Last Dance in the Old Place. 2014 Whitney Biennial Has New Faces and Interesting Choices." March 6, 2014.
[Artinfo](#). Wendy Vogel, "Preview: Highlights From the Whitney Biennial 2014." March 5, 2014.
[Chicago Magazine](#). Jason Fomberg, "A Visit to the Studio of Elijah Burgher." March 4, 2014.
[Art in America](#). Koen Kleijn, "Review: AA Bronson, Rotterdam at de Witte de With." February 26, 2014.
[Chicago Magazine](#). Elly Fishman and Jason Fomberg, "Four Artists to Watch at the Whitney Biennial." February 22, 2014.
[New York Times](#). Blake Gopnik, "Choose the Artists, Ignore the Critics." February 13, 2014.
[Sotheby's Magazine](#). Ted Loos, "A Biennial in the Making." February 7, 2014.
[Museum Magazine](#). Alex Philip Fitzgerald, "Agenda: The 2014 Whitney Biennial (reproduction)." Issue 42: February-March 2014.
[Art Review](#). Terry Myers, "Elijah Burgher." January/February 2014.
[PINUPS](#). Issue No. 18, featuring Elijah Burgher. January 2014
[Hero Magazine](#). AA Bronson, "AA Bronson selects abstract ceremonial painter Elijah Burgher." October 12, 2014.
- 2013 [Chicago Magazine](#). Jason Fomberg, "10 Memorable Art Moments from 2013." December 24, 2013.
[Bad at Sports](#). Kevin Blake, "Transcending Immediacy: A Conversation with Elijah Burgher." December 16, 2013.
[artforum.com](#). Matt Morris, "Elijah Burgher" November 25, 2013.
[Daily Serving](#). Randall Miller, "Elijah Burgher: Friendship as a Way of Life b/w I'm Seeking the Minotaur at Western Exhibitions." November 19, 2013.
[NYUlocal](#). Sydney Smith, "2014 Whitney Biennial Artists Announced." November 18th, 2013.
[Chicago Magazine](#). Jason Fomberg, "There Are 17 Chicago Artists in the 2014 Whitney Biennial." November 18, 2013.

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