

3721 Washington Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

## NEWS RELEASE

April 20, 2012

### ***BUNNY BURSON: HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT***

**Opening Reception:**

Friday, May 11, 2012, from 5 to 9 pm  
May 11 – July 21, 2012

Project Room:

***Danielle Spradley: Over Time***

Media Room:

***Lisa K. Blatt: i am the enola gay***

**Recital with Clare Burson**

Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 3:30pm

Media Contact: Bruno L. David, Director  
Public Hours: Wednesday through Saturday  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Email: [info@brunodavidgallery.com](mailto:info@brunodavidgallery.com)  
Website: [www.brunodavidgallery.com](http://www.brunodavidgallery.com)  
Tel: 1.314.531.3030



### **BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY BUNNY BURSON**

SAINT LOUIS, MO – April 20th, 2012 – Bruno David Gallery presents *HIDDEN in Plain Sight* by **Bunny Burson**, on view from May 11 to June 30, 2012. Comprised of installations, prints and drawings, Burson's exhibition draws inspiration from a collection of over 100 letters written by the artist's grandparents to her mother between 1939-1941. Using prints, transfers, and overlays, Burson simultaneously grants and denies her viewers access to the content of the letters and their impact on the artist's own personal journey.

Discovered by the artist in 2009, the letters were found where they had been 'hidden in plain sight' for over 50 years in the attic of her childhood home in Memphis, TN. They chronicle her grandparents' desperate attempts to leave Germany and then Latvia after sending their children to the United States in 1938. More importantly, however, the letters reveal the intimate details of people she never knew - her grandparents and their relationship with her own mother as a young woman. The revelations contained within these letters helped fill the void of an unknown family history that had haunted the artist for years. Burson's experience of processing these revelations culminates in this exhibition, and the visual narrative she constructs evokes the physical hand of both her grandparents and herself as their stories eventually merge into one.

As much as this exhibit stems from Burson's own inward personal journey, the artist's work looks outward. It challenges us to take our own journeys and to ask: Who am I? Where do I come from? What makes me who I am? *HIDDEN in Plain Sight* is a call to share our stories, to develop an understanding of each other and ourselves.

Bunny Burson received her M.F.A. from Washington University in St. Louis. She lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri. A catalogue will accompany the exhibition with essays by **Kate Butler** and **Kara Gordon**.

In the **Project Room**, the gallery presents a series of new drawings, titled *Over Time*, by **Danielle Spradley**. Danielle Spradley's work centers on the immense amount of change over time in the relationship between society and the environment. By painting images of the homeless woven into piles of trash and juxtaposing the trash accumulated in the city with Native American mythological characters, Spradley elevates these remnants of modern society. Her images combine highly detailed relief printing and painting, emphasizing every object's importance. Influenced by living in the Midwest, Spradley pulls motifs from Native American folklore and symbolism, most notably the white buffalo. Spradley uses this buffalo, which embodies the strength of women and the hope for humanity in future generations, to speak to loss in today's society on a number of levels. Danielle Spradley received her B.F.A. from Memphis College of Art. She lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri.



In the **Media Room**, the gallery presents a video work titled "*i am the enola gay*" by **Lisa K. Blatt**. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945, Col. Paul Tibbets, Jr. flew the Enola Gay, the American B-29 bomber, off the runway to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, ending the second World War. While this marked victory for the Allies, the atomic bombs devastated Japan, the five-year death total as a result is thought to exceed 200,000 people in Hiroshima alone.

Initially, it seems that Lisa K. Blatt's video could be any plane on any runway. It is the video's title and location that load "*i am the enola gay*" with its significance. On the same runway from which the Enola Gay took off nearly seventy years ago, Blatt recreates this journey in this video, presenting the viewer with the takeoff from the actual runway, including stopping at the bomb loading site.



Raised in suburban St. Louis, Blatt feels more at home in extreme landscapes, using the environment to shape her stories. Her worksites are entrenched in meaning and significance, whether she is living in a tent on a live volcano in Antarctica, the Atacama Desert in Chile, or the runway from which Enola Gay took off. These kind of locations have provided that background for photography and video installations that have been included in international and domestic exhibitions, including *Polar Extremes*, a solo show at the Reykjavik Museum of Photography Reykjavik, Iceland (2009); *Sound Design for Future Films*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2008); *Proyecto Circo* at the 8th Havana Biennial in Havana, Cuba, the Shanghai Biennial, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai (2007); and the solo show "Night Light" at Mills College Art Museum (2006). Blatt has been awarded residencies for the Montana Artist Refuge, Center for Land Use (Wendover) and Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colorado.

Most recently, **Cindy Sherman** selected Lisa K. Blatt as her one pick for an artist doing groundbreaking work in *Shooting Stars - New Stars of Photography* for the *Smithsonian Magazine*. Sherman writes, "My original response to Lisa's work was visceral...I found something mysterious in them, as if they were so carefully composed as to be hiding some relevant content that one has to discern." Ms. Blatt received her M.F.A. (New Genres) from the San Francisco Art Institute. She lives and works in San Francisco, California.

#### OUR SIXTH SEASON 2011 - 2012 ART PROGRAM

LESLIE LASKEY	September/October 2011
CHARLES SCHWALL	October/November 2011
DAMON FREED	November/December 2011
JUDY PFAFF	January/February 2012
CHRIS KAHLER	March/April 2012
BUNNY BURSON	May/June 2012
JOAN HALL	September/October 2012

#### ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Specializing in contemporary art, Bruno David Gallery has been a leading art gallery since its establishment in 2005. Bruno David represents some of the best artists that St. Louis offers, along with artists of national and international reputation. Located in a renovated industrial building in Midtown St. Louis, Grand Center arts district, the Gallery is directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM), and is in close proximity to the Sheldon Art Galleries, The Fox Theatre, and Powell Symphony Hall. Bruno David Gallery's art program introduces new contemporary art to local gallery visitors, and is discussed in publications including, *Art in America*, *Art Papers*, *ArtNet Magazine*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

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