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## BEST RABBLE-ROUSER

Danny Orendorff

Critics' Choice

Kansas City's art scene got a little more contentious this year, thanks to Charlotte Street Foundation curator-in-residence Danny Orendorff, who kicked off his time in the seat with an exercise in political and civic engagement called *We'll Make Out Better Than Okay*. That exhibition blended recession-fueled rage (paintings of Chase banks on fire, portraits of political enemies snared in incisive commentary) with glimmers — scant glimmers — of hope. Subsequent exhibitions *The Tyranny of Good Taste* and *The Stench of Rotting Flowers* connected the curator's confrontational aesthetic to queer concerns. Orendorff's selections aren't always pretty, and we're the better for it. Because politics isn't pretty, either.

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