

FEATURED ARTISTS

David O. Alekhuogie
Jennifer Boe
Andrea Bowers
Candy Chang
Blake Fall-Conroy
Theaster Gates
Honey Pot Performance
Steve Lambert
Persia ft. DADDIES PLASTIK
William Powhida
Public Media Institute
Alex Schaefer
Mike Simi
Brittany Southworth LaFlamme
Stephanie Syjuco
Cassie Thornton
Daniel Tucker



WE'LL
MAKE OUT
BETTER
THAN
OKAY.

CURATED BY CHARLOTTE STREET 2013-14 CURATOR-IN-RESIDENCE DANNY ORENDORFF
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WWW.CHARLOTTESTREET.ORG

Ya Gotta Be Kidding Me

(dedicated to Miriam Carey)

It's Sunday, October 6, 2013, and I'm in Washington, DC, reading the 'Sunday Review' section of the *New York Times*. Independently of one another, columnists Maureen Dowd and Nicholas D. Kristoff turn to post-apocalyptic fiction and doomsday military scenarios to describe what's going on with the American government. Just two days ago an unarmed young woman driving dangerously throughout our nation's capital, at one point clipping a police officer in pursuit of her, was shot dead for doing so. Shot by police officers whose paychecks had been put on hold. This occurred less than a mile down the block from the hotel at which I had been staying. This occurred outside, in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. This occurred in proximity to the United States Capitol building. The Capitol building meant to house an absentee Congress. The Capitol building meant to house parts of the government shut down because, ostensibly, certain powerful folks don't believe affordable healthcare for poor folks is essential.

How might it feel to be a recently laid off, working-class, unmarried, black mother dealing with what is institutionally pathologized as 'mental illness' in today's social and economic context? Is it okay for me to ask that? What local services or resources exist to help us *not* lose our minds? Any? If not, why? Do you ever wonder where your own abilities or the abilities of others to not only survive, but live and thrive, in this nation fall on the priority list of your government, of your bank, of your employer? If you have one.

The title of this exhibition is *We'll Make Out Better Than Okay*. However, this short essay is written with the grave realization that many of us will not. Many of us, particularly those of us whose lives are administered by the state towards lack, un(der)-employment, and sickness due to racist, misogynistic, homophobic, xenophobic, and otherwise exploitative capitalist policy will certainly not make out okay within a system that facilitates stress, anxiety, and certain lives - disproportionately so - towards poverty and premature death. It is a question of life chances; who has got a good one and who does not? How, and why?

I carry no pretensions that this exhibition assists in the real, public, and street-level work of social justice for those historically and economically disadvantaged because of their race, gender, sexuality, citizenship-status, age, abilities, or educational background. I carry no pretensions that this exhibition matters. I carry with me only the naive wish that artwork may still be capable of provoking independent thoughts and feelings for those beholding it, for those whose individual structures of feeling may be altered in the process. For those realizing that their own depression, fatigue, exhaustion, stress, and anxiety may be the byproduct of a broken capitalist system. For those, also and like me, that are feeling these feelings.

- Danny Orendorff (10/25/13)