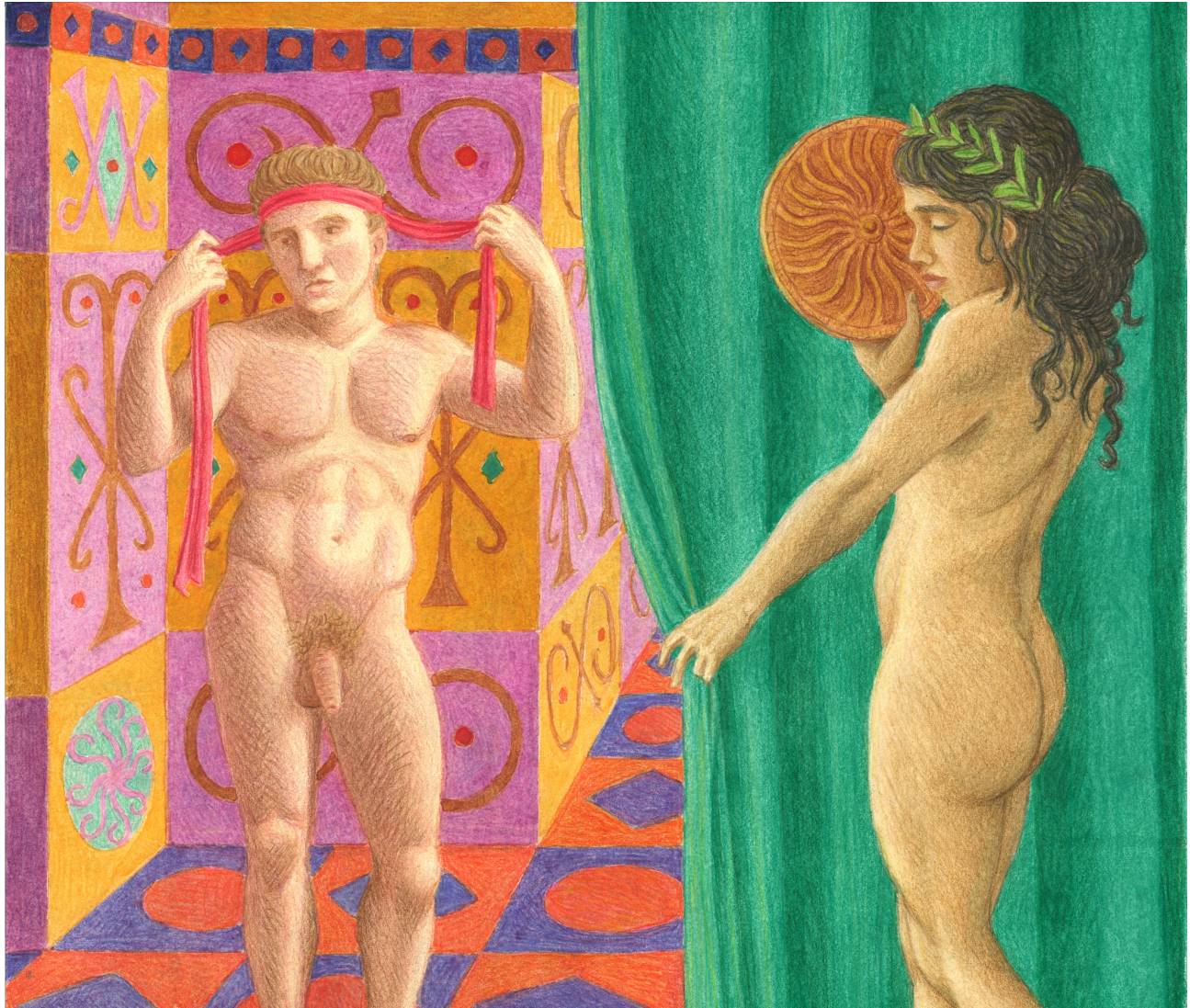


# ELIJAH BURGHER

b. 1978, Kingston, NY

Lives and works in Berlin, DE



Palace Brothel, 2024, Coloured pencil and watercolour on paper, 18h x 13 1/2w in

Using painting, drawing, photography and printmaking, Elijah Burgher (b. 1978) works at the crossroads of representation and language, figuration and abstraction, and the real and imagined. Drawing from mythology, ancient history, the occult, and ritual magick, Burgher cultivates a highly intimate code of sigils and emblems imbued with magical power to investigate the personal and cultural dynamics of desire, love, subcultural formation, and the history of abstraction. However, at the core of this multifaceted practice, Burgher “aims to know whether an artwork, any artwork, can possess meaning—to truly embody it somehow.”

Elijah Burgher is an artist and occasional writer currently living in Berlin. His work was featured in *Scrivere Disegnando: When Language Seeks Its Other* at [Centre d'Art Contemporain](#), 2020; *For Opacity* at the Drawing Center in New York City, 2018; the [2014 Whitney Biennial](#) at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City; the 2014 Gwangju Biennial; and *The Temptation of AA Bronson* at the Kunstinstituut Melly in Rotterdam, 2014. He has recently exhibited at the Schwules Museum in Berlin, [LAXART](#) in Los Angeles and the [Des Moines Art Center](#) in Iowa. He has attended residencies 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](#), [Frieze](#), [ArtReview](#), [Artforum](#) and was included in *VITAMIN D2*, the hardcover survey of contemporary drawing. He received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York. Elijah Burgher is represented by [P.P.O.W](#) in New York City, [Western Exhibitions](#) in Chicago and [Ivan Gallery](#) in Bucharest.

**WESTERN EXHIBITIONS** 1709 W Chicago Ave., Chicago IL 60622 USA  
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# 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

- 2024 *A List of Wishes*, (northern) Western Exhibitions, Skokie, IL
- 2024 *Our Lady of the Latrines*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2021 *Queen of the Forest*, P.P.O.W., New York, NY
- 2020 *Until the beasts and all the mountain are wild with divinity*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *The Lover's Labyrinth Opens & Closes*, Open Forum, Brunnenstr 115, Berlin, Germany  
*4 Paintings*, LAXART, Los Angeles, CA
- 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, IL
- 2012 *Elijah Burgher*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *Elijah Burgher, Topple the Table of Correspondences*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Projects, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Elijah Burgher*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Oak Park, IL

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *A Queer Arcana: Art, Magic, and Spirit*, Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA
- 2025 *City in a Garden: Queer Art and Activism in Chicago*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*I Believe I Know*, Tomayko Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2024 *Cosmic Geometries II*, Carrie Secrist Gallery, curated by Hilma's Ghost, Chicago, IL

- The Politicians (some of them)*, (northern) Western Exhibitions, Skokie, IL
- 2023 *Place-World*, Sean Horton Presents, New York, NY  
*Block Party: Community and Celebration in American Art*, The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA  
*Transcendental Arrangements: 109<sup>th</sup> Annual AAP Exhibition*, Miller ICA at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA  
*The Western Exhibitions Drawing Biennial*, Chicago, IL  
*Pattern and Process*, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL  
 Miller ICA, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA  
*Friends and Lovers*, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 *Figures, Grounds*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL  
*COME OUT & PLAY*, BEERS London, England  
*The Venusians*, Come Again!, Berlin, Germany
- 2021 *The Western Exhibitions Drawing Biennial*, Chicago, IL  
*Hovel Cum Coven Cum Oven (Part 2)*, Curated by Alex Rose, Empirical Nonsense  
*I am afraid to own a Body*, Poker Flats, Williamston, MA
- 2020 *Scrivere Disegnando: When Language Seeks Its Other*, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Switzerland  
*Shag: Provocative Textiles*, Adult Contemporary series, curated by Laura Hutson Hunter, Nashville, TN
- 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; traveled to Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS  
*Drawn Together Again*, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY
- 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 Ruhlwald*, Paris London Hong Kong, Chicago  
*Triple Fantasy*, Third Man Records, Nashville, TN  
*HOMOCCULT 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

#### PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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[Bad Gays Podcast](#). Huw Lemmey and Ben Miller. "Elagabalus." Season 7, Episode 4. March 5, 2024  
[Block Club Chicago](#). Leen Yassine, "20 Things to do in Chicago this weekend." February 23, 2024.
- 2023 [Hyperallergic](#). Lori Waxman, "Chicago's Drawing Biennial Has Something for Everyone." January 23, 2023.
- 2022 [Chicago Reader](#). S. Nicole Lane, "The body in focus: Two gallery shows at Western Exhibitions that rediscover the human form." April 18, 2022.
- 2021 [Artsy](#). Shannon Lee, "Trends to Watch in 2021: Colored Pencil Revival." January 20, 2021.

- 2020 [NBC News](#). Dan Allen “16 LGBTQ art shows worth travelling for in early 2020.” January 10, 2020.  
[Observer](#). Paddy Johnson, “The 12 Best Gallery Exhibitions Across the Country Opening in Spring.”  
[Frieze](#). Harry Burke, “Is Modernity a History of the Unwritten?” March 25, 2020.
- 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.”  
[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.”  
[ARTFORUM](#). Blake Oetting, “Critics’ Picks: Des Moines.” August 22, 2019.
- 2018 *For Opacity*. Claire Gilman, “Fro Opacity: Elijah Burgher, Toyin Ojih Odutola and Nathaniel Mary Quinn”  
The Drawing Center, New York, October 2018 (catalog)  
[INTO](#). Miles W. Griffis, “Elijah Burgher and Collaborators Debut ‘Sperm Cult’ at LAXART.” November 13  
[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.”  
[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 Foumberg, "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 Foumberg, "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 Foumberg, "Four Artists to Watch at the Whitney Biennial."
- 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.
- Mousee Magazine. Alex Philip Fitzgerald, "Agenda: The 2014 Whitney Biennial (reproduction)." Issue 42
- 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 Foumberg, "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"
- NYUlocal. Sydney Smith, "2014 Whitney Biennial Artists Announced." November 18th, 2013.
- Chicago Magazine. Jason Foumberg, "There Are 17 Chicago Artists in the 2014 Whitney Biennial." November 18
- 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."
- 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."
- 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

LAXart, Los Angeles, CA 2018  
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 2011  
Fire Island Artist Residency, 2011