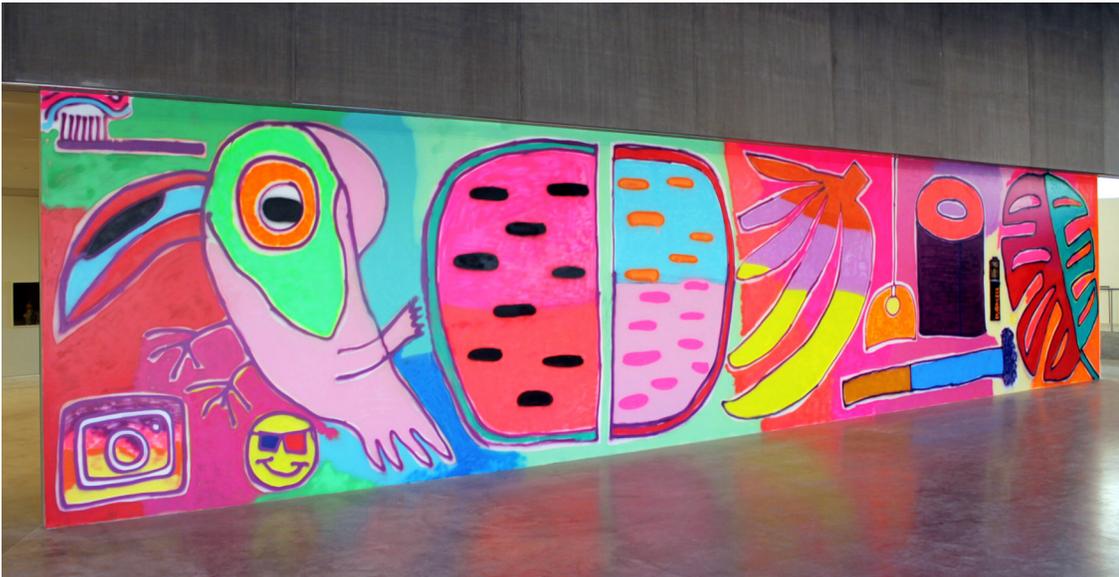


# Katherine Bernhardt



Katherine Bernhardt, *XXL SUPERFLAT PANCAKE*, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Photo: Marianne Laury.

St. Louis native Katherine Bernhardt returned to her hometown to create a new site-specific mural, *XXL SUPERFLAT PANCAKE*, on the Museum's 60 foot-long Project Wall. The work contains many motifs from Bernhardt's unique compositions, including an idiosyncratic personal and political iconography and a color palette inspired by her frequent travels to Puerto Rico. Her work absorbs street art traditions and their preoccupations with commodification and consumption. Painting with spray cans, Bernhardt reinvigorates graffiti actions such as "bombing" and "tagging," collapsing distinctions between the art inside and outside the museum walls.

Bernhardt's work attracts the eye like painted wallpaper, with rhythmic patterns that mimic those found in Moroccan rugs and African textiles. For her mural, made specifically for CAM, Bernhardt has incorporated such imagery as a toucan, Duracell battery, toilet paper, bananas, watermelon, 3-D emoji, Instagram icon, Kartell dome light, and a toothbrush with a halo of toothpaste. During her four-day January residency, viewers witnessed her fluency of line as she outlined a giant philodendron leaf with a single, spray-paint gesture.

Bernhardt has employed what she calls "the wrong colors" in *XXL SUPERFLAT PANCAKE*: color-blocked bananas of fluorescent yellow, purple, and rust tones; deep violet and neon orange toilet paper; and an electric blue cigarette. Her background colors are fragmented and dynamic, making a pastiche of unrelated hues. Bernhardt is also remarkable for the proliferation of her signature commercial goods: shoes, bags, clothing, jewelry, and other accessories. In this way Bernhardt subverts the co-opting of artists' images by consumer culture—blurring the divisions between commercial product and art object.



## Audio Tour

Visit [camstludio.org](http://camstludio.org) or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the artists and curator on the audio tour.

**Katherine Bernhardt** (b. 1975, St. Louis; lives and works in Brooklyn, NY) has recently received solo exhibitions at CANADA, New York (2014), Roberto Paradise, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2013), and The Hole, New York (2013). Her work has been exhibited by Salon 94 in New York, Macro Future Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome, Carbon 12 in Dubai, galleria Suzanne Tarasieve in Paris, and many more. Bernhardt received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her MFA from the School of Visual Art in New York City.

*Katherine Bernhardt* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Lisa Melandri, Executive Director.



Katherine Bernhardt, *Cheeseburger Deluxe*, 2016. Lithographic print on Somerset 300 gsm Velvet, 28 × 38 1/2 inches. Edition of 100 unique prints.

## Related Programs

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### Work in Progress: Katherine Bernhardt

Friday, January 6, 11:00 am

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### Conversation with the Curator

Thursday, March 9, 6:00 pm

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### Sunday Studio: Mural Art with Ellie Balk

Sunday, March 19, 1:00–3:00 pm

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**Contemporary Art  
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3750 Washington Blvd  
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314.535.4660

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