

Gallery Guide Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

October 3– December 3, 2014

On view every night, dusk-midnight



Kevin Jerome Everson



Kevin Jerome Everson, *Tygers*, 2014. Courtesy the artist, Trilobite-Arts DAC, and Picture Palace Pictures.

Kevin Jerome Everson focuses on the physical, social, and environmental surroundings of working-class African Americans and individuals of African descent. His work often blurs the line between fiction and documentary, combining the "real" with the staged, scripted, and reenacted. Across more than 100 feature-length and short films, Everson poignantly captures the everyday, creating impressionistic portraits that imbue life's more interstitial moments with beauty and meaning.

For Street Views, CAM's series of monumental, exterior moving-image works, Everson presents two short films that explore different interpretations of American football. In Tygers (2014), members of the Mansfield Senior High School Tygers varsity team (from the artist's hometown) engage in practice drills. By interspersing sequences of the athletes' controlled movements with sudden pauses, Everson emphasizes the discipline and concentration underlying their mechanical gestures. Furthermore, the camera's close positioning to the boys and the way in which they stare directly into the lens establish a dual sense of intimacy and vulnerability.

In *The Release* (2013), professional dancers enact a classic football gesture as a rhythmic dance. Intentionally slowing down the speed of the 16mm film, Everson further abstracts the moves from their original function. Taken together, these films explore performance, choreography, and athleticism, asking viewers to reconsider their traditional definitions of each.



Download the CAM app at camstl.org/app or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the artist on the audio tour.

Kevin Jerome Everson (b. 1965, Mansfield, Ohio) is a Professor of Art at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. His paintings, sculptures, photographs, and films have been exhibited at numerous art institutions and museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Whitechapel Gallery, London; REDCAT, Los Angeles; The UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; American Academy of Rome, Italy; Wurttenbergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart; and The Wexner Center of the Arts, Columbus, Ohio. His work was featured in the 2008 and 2012 Whitney Biennials and the 2013 Sharjah Biennial.

Kevin Jerome Everson is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Kelly Shindler, Associate Curator. Special thanks to Pulitzer Arts Foundation.

Related Program

Film Screening and Artist Q&A: Kevin Jerome Everson Sunday, November 23, 6:00 pm

CAM and the 23rd Annual Whitaker Foundation St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF) present a screening of *The Island of St. Matthews* (2013, 16mm, 64:00, color), a new feature film by Kevin Jerome Everson. The evening begins with two shorts by Everson—*Stone* (2013, HD, 6:50, color) and *Juneteenth Columbus, Mississippi* (2013, 16mm, 2:10, color, silent)—and the filmmaker will be on hand to take questions after the screening.



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