



**Gallery Guide**  
Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

December 5, 2014–  
February 4, 2015

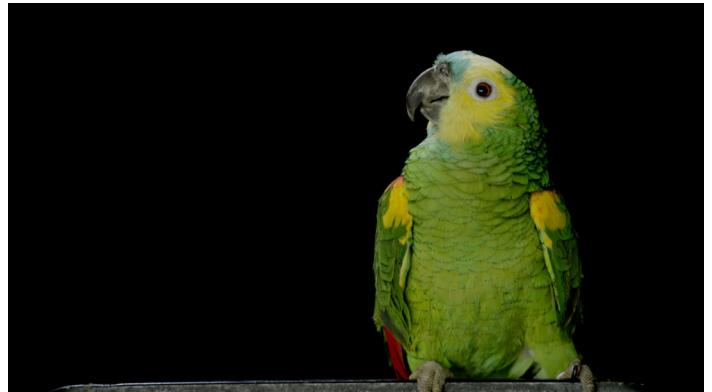
On view every night,  
dusk–midnight



# Marco Rios: At Loulou's Door

Embracing a variety of literary and cinematic references, Marco Rios's interdisciplinary practice explores themes of film noir, paranoia, death, and delirium. For *Street Views*, Rios presents his recent work, *At Loulou's Door*, on CAM's exterior facade. Rios's hauntingly beautiful video reinterprets Gustave Flaubert's 1877 novella *Un coeur simple*, taking the influential French writer's work as its point of departure.

Flaubert's text tells the story of Félicité, a devoutly spiritual and altruistic servant who remains unwaveringly virtuous despite a life characterized by sorrowful events. The reader learns of Loulou, Félicité's pet parrot and sole companion, with whom the protagonist holds a complex relationship: "At church, she always contemplated the Holy Spirit and noticed that it had a look of the parrot." Flaubert concludes his text with Félicité on her deathbed, where she "believed she saw, in the heavens as they opened, a gigantic parrot flying above her head."



*Marco Rios: At Loulou's Door*, 2013. HD video loop, 2:51 minutes, edition of 3 + 2 APs. Courtesy the artist and Simon Preston Gallery, New York.

Filmed in real time, Rios's video references Flaubert's heartbreaking short story. The symbol of the parrot was influential to Flaubert and Rios, serving as a muse for both artists. Loulou assumes the role of the Holy Spirit in both the novella—as a literary allegory—and in Rios's work—as an image projected upon the Museum, perched high above the heads of passersby. The parrot, displayed at a disquieting monumental scale, transcends its literal and corporeal existence, and can be understood instead as a symbolic and omnipresent being. By forgoing any form of visual narrative, Rios compresses the viewer's experience of his work into a ceaseless loop of Loulou's slow and anxious movements. As the parrot becomes a surrogate for a multitude of spiritual and existential concerns, its deadpan depiction pervades the work with a sense of the uncanny.



## Audio Tour

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

**Marco Rios** (b. 1975, Los Angeles) lives and works in Los Angeles. He received his BFA from Otis College of Art and Design and his MFA from the University of California, Irvine. Recent exhibitions include Simon Preston, New York, LA><ART, Los Angeles, and, with Kara Tanaka, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco. He was also included in *Let Them Eat LACMA* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, *This is Killing Me* at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, and the 2008 California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach.

*Marco Rios: At Loulou's Door* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Jeffrey Uslip, Chief Curator.

Special thanks to Pulitzer Arts Foundation.

## Related Programs

---

### Public Reception

**Friday, January 16, 7:00–9:00 pm**

Join us to celebrate *Marco Rios: At Loulou's Door* and the opening the spring exhibition season.

### Member Book Club: A Simple Heart

**Thursday, April 2, 6:00 pm**

Chosen by exhibiting artist Marco Rios, Gustave Flaubert's 1877 novella, *A Simple Heart*, follows the life of servant girl Félicité and her parrot, Loulou, who is the inspiration for Rios's work *At Loulou's Door*.



**Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis**  
3750 Washington Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314.535.4660

## Connect with CAM

Visit [camstl.org](http://camstl.org)

Follow [@contemporarystl](https://twitter.com/contemporarystl) on Twitter

Like [contemporaryartmuseumstl](https://www.facebook.com/contemporaryartmuseumstl) on Facebook

Follow [camstl](https://www.instagram.com/camstl) on Instagram

Sign up for enews at [camstl.org/news](http://camstl.org/news)

Download the CAM STL app from the [App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store) or [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.camstl)