



# ArtReach: I Am



Photograph by Carr Lane Middle School student.

Throughout the spring and fall semesters of 2016, CAM's ArtReach in-school program initiated its first ArtReach Intensive series with two St. Louis Public high schools and one middle school. Through this series students from wide-ranging backgrounds, ages 14 to 19, explored issues of contemporary life through contemporary art. These multi-week, multidisciplinary explorations utilized contemporary art practices to explore social themes of identity, place, and activism—all chosen by teachers and students.

At Carr Lane Visual and Performing Arts Middle School, art students joined with peers studying mass media to navigate the neighborhoods, businesses, and public spaces surrounding the school and construct photo-journalistic inquiries of citizens' social identities. Immigrant students from Nahed Chapman New American Academy learned bookbinding and storytelling methods to share visual narratives of their experiences migrating from their homelands, adjusting to life in the United States, and responding to social challenges. Northwest Academy of Law junior and senior students worked with three activist-artists to investigate "Artivism," and to respond creatively to justice issues they were studying in their curricula. The student art actions included the creation of shields that were sent to Standing Rock protestors in North Dakota.

*I Am* presents a photo installation by Carr Lane students.

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*ArtReach: I Am* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Lyndon Barrois, Jr., Museum Educator.



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