

ArtReach Vashon High School



Vashon High's sophomore class installation on view in the school's rotunda, 2017. Photo: Donny Bradfield.

The 2018 ArtReach exhibition presents work by students from Vashon High School. Since August 2017, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and the faculty and administration of Vashon have partnered in the implementation of a project-based art curriculum, providing fundamental art education through introductory art courses, exploring 2D and 3D art-making to approximately fifty sophomores. Prior to the partnership, Vashon had been without a consistent art program for nearly five years. CAM has enlisted four resident artists—Roland Houston, Sarah Harford, Tiffany Sutton, and Lizzy Martinez—who plan and teach each quarter's focus project. This innovative and comprehensive program is under the direction of CAM's Miriam Ruiz, working in collaboration with Vashon instructor Tim Jennings. Vashon belongs within CAM's one-mile-radius initiative, in which staff and local artists work with our neighboring schools and immediate community.

Roland Houston, a Vashon alumnus, implemented the Vashon Wolverine Legacy Project to acquaint the students with the school's historical significance and

its past successes through narrative and symbolic imagery. Cardboard boxes served as a six-sided "canvas," introducing students to foundational drawing and painting skills. Each student worked on an individual box, combining multiple two-dimensional elements, including self-portraiture, renderings of Vashon's different locations throughout the course of its history, hieroglyph-inspired messages, and images depicting Vashon's historic basketball legacy. The resulting work conveys both individual and collective narratives and imagery. The full installation has been on view in the Vashon High School rotunda since December, with the Education Gallery installation offering a sample of the students' work.



Audio Tour

Visit camstlaudio.org or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the artists and educators on the audio tour.

Corrugated Expressions emerged under the direction of Sarah Harford, who drew from the exploration of mass-produced and dispensable materials in her own artistic practice. Throughout the quarter students were responsible for the complete papermaking process—preparing paper pulp from discarded corrugated cardboard boxes and building their own deckles (paper molds) in class. Students incorporated their paper pieces with found objects such as rubber bands, feathers, colored paper scraps, and other common craft supplies to add texture and culture. The works on view at CAM represent both individual material explorations as well as larger collaborations in paper.

CAM continues to partner with Vashon throughout the school year. In 2018, Vashon students are studying photography with Tiffany Sutton and mural art with Lizzy Martinez.

Roland Houston is a Vashon alumnus and St. Louis-based artist whose digital and analog paintings draw heavily upon the pop culture imagery and likenesses of friends, family, and mentors that have left an indelible impression upon his life.

Sarah Harford is a local artist and MFA graduate of Washington University's Sam Fox School. In her practice, she is inspired by the potential of materials that are both pervasive and the result of mass production as vehicles through which to explore concepts such as identity and fear in contemporary society.

ArtReach is generously supported by The Dana Brown Charitable Trust, U.S. Bank, Trustee; The Crawford Taylor Foundation; The DeWitt and Caroline Van Evera Foundation; Maritz; Neiman Marcus; and the Norman K. Probststein Charitable Fund.

2018 ArtReach Students:

Domonic D. Archie
Recko Bailey
Michael D. Brown
Nydia Octavia Brown
Keyshaun Terrell Carmel
Ahlaya C. Chavers
Keilen Clark
Kobe Khalia Clark
Nautica N. Cook
Lewis Dickens
Avante Igwé Evans
Davion L. Farris
Kayla Marie Flowers
Malcolm X. Horton
Terrance Jearkins
Jordan K. Johnson
Shanya Monet Johnson
Jonathan C. Jones Jr.
Donnette Larkin
Aubrey R. Logan
Tabatha Marshall
Taylor Marshall
Ziondre D. McCaine-Bey

Diane R. Miller
Davion Lee Murphy
Dominick Noel
Brianna Zonesha Norman
Donnay L. Parson
Jayla Shea Peebles
Amouri Phillips
Willow J. Polford
Tiona Robinson
Samari Xalee Smith
Ryan G. Standley
Antonette Chauntay Sutton
Trinity Thomas
Paige Wallace
Jamal D. Walters
Jasean Camron Weaver
Keshawn A. Wesley
Jamijna Victoria Westbrook
Dewayne Jermaine White
DeAngelo Whitfield
Daja I. Williams
De'Shawn Arron Williams



Corrugated Expressions (detail), 2017. Photo: Donny Bradfield.



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