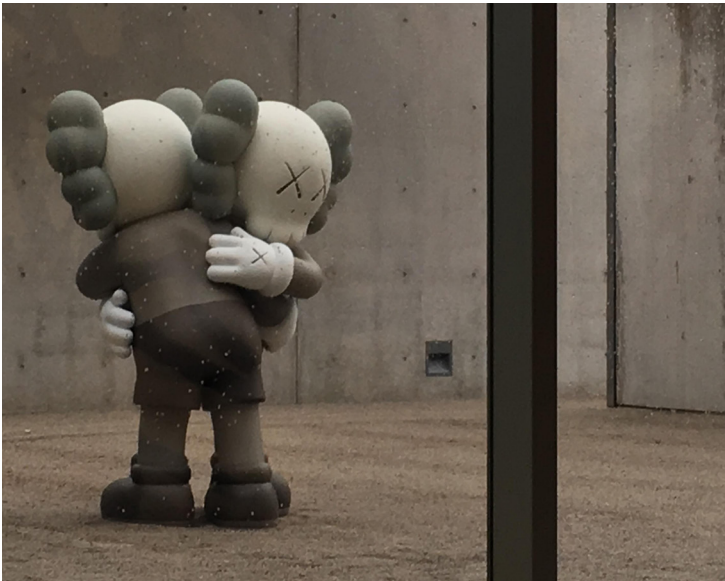


KAWS FAR FAR DOWN



KAWS, *TOGETHER*, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Photo: Lisa Melandri.

The multifaceted artist KAWS is renowned for his inspired manipulations of pop-culture imagery, a practice that began in the early 1990s when the artist painted over existing advertisements in cities around the world. Since that time KAWS's practice has encompassed realms of both art and design, extending into collaborations with such global brands as Comme des Garçons, Nike, Supreme, and Uniqlo.

For *FAR FAR DOWN*, the artist creates a site-specific painting on CAM's 60-foot long Project Wall, the large-scale work serving as a backdrop for three new major paintings. In the Museum's courtyard, KAWS debuts the most recent permutation from his sculpture series, *TOGETHER*—bronze painted figures in a consoling embrace. *TOGETHER* is immediately endearing, and at the same time evokes pathos and contemplation.

The paintings on view on the Project Wall deliver a sustained visual display of clashing patterns and vibrant colors, with barely recognizable popular figures inlaid within the scenes as deceptively as camouflage. The title of the exhibition and the eponymous painting implies physical or emotional descent, although the status of the concealed forms within the work are open to conjecture. KAWS draws profound links between popular culture, commercialization, and the human condition. Rather than pose a critique of mass culture, however, he makes associations with a wide audience through his identifiable imagery. KAWS incorporates a playful style with a serious formal aesthetic—his dedication to craft, respect for the handmade, and lightness of spirit all conjoin.



Audio Tour

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

KAWS (b. 1974, Jersey City, New Jersey; lives and works in Brooklyn), has exhibited internationally in major museums and galleries. His most recent solo exhibitions include *KAWS: WHERE THE END STARTS* at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and Yuz Museum, Shanghai; *KAWS: GISWIL* at More Gallery, Giswil, Switzerland; Galerie Perotin, Seoul, Korea; and Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Longside Gallery (2016). His work has also been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the High Art Museum. KAWS received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts.

KAWS: FAR FAR DOWN is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Lisa Melandri, Executive Director.



KAWS, *FAR FAR DOWN*, 2017. Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy the artist.

Related Programs

Work in Progress: KAWS

Wednesday, May 3, 6:00 pm

Conversation with the Curator

Thursday, June 29, 6:00 pm



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