



Lauren Adams, *We the People*, 2012. Interactive installation with custom-painted wallpaper and painted plates by Expo participants. Courtesy of the artist.

Lauren Adams: We the People

Lauren Adams's work addresses historical issues of colonialism—the system by which the people of one territory establish systems of authority or control over people in another territory—and industrialization to demonstrate how they inform our present-day reality. Working in a variety of media from painting and drawing to textiles and printmaking, she repurposes centuries-old imagery to explore the relationship between labor and the production of material goods. Adams uses specific images, symbols, and situations from these histories to suggest how they play a significant role in the balance of power between social classes, nations, and ethnicities today.

We the People is an interactive installation in which the artist has painted slogans from recent Occupy Wall Street and Tea Party protests into reproduced Revolutionary War-era wallpaper. The pattern, entitled “General Samuel McClellan,” features a repeated image of various everyday objects from the 18th-century. Extracted and abstracted from its original context, the protest language visible on the wallpaper functions as a generalized call to action. Visitors to CAM's booth can record their own “protest” on a unique ceramic plate to be displayed during the fair. A custom-designed tea towel made exclusively for Expo Chicago both advertises the project and is exchanged with visitors in return for their contributions.

Adams is also exhibiting new work in a solo exhibition, *Hoard*, in CAM's Front Room gallery from September 7–October 14, 2012 (3750 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108).

Lauren Adams (American, b. 1979) lives and works in Baltimore, Maryland, where she is a full-time faculty member at the Maryland Institute College of Art. She has had recent solo exhibitions at Back Lane West, Cornwall, UK (2012); Conner Contemporary, Washington, DC (2011); Luminary Center for the Arts, St. Louis (2011); and Royal NoneSuch Gallery, Oakland, California (2010). Her work has been featured in group exhibitions including: Nymans House and Gardens, Sussex, UK (2012); Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, North Carolina (2012), Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, North Carolina (2011); Purdue University, Indiana (2011); St. Cecelia's, Brooklyn, New York (2010); CUE Foundation, New York (2008); Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2008); and the Andy Warhol Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2005); among many others. She received her MFA from Carnegie Mellon University (2007) and has attended several artist residencies, including the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (2010); Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2009); and the Jentel Artist Residency Program, Banner, Wyoming (2008).

Lauren Adams: We the People is organized by the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and curated by Kelly Shindler, Assistant Curator.

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