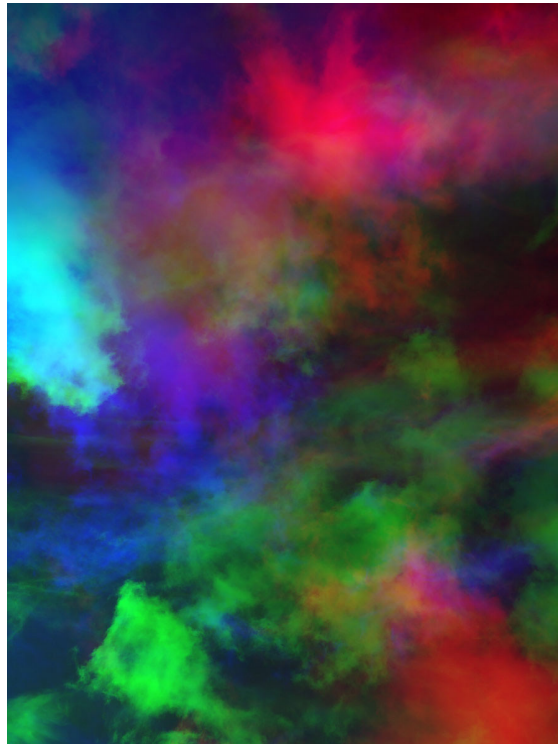
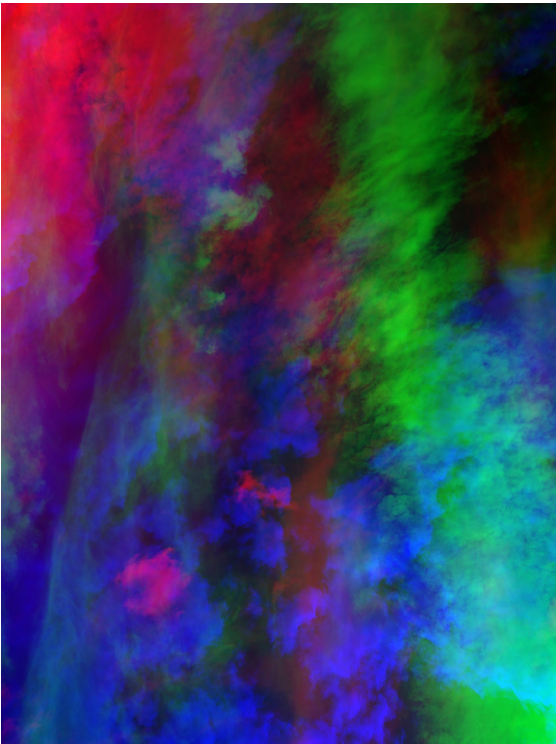




Louis Cameron



Louis Cameron, *Clouds* #2, 2016. Archival inkjet print on paper, 39 3/8 × 29 1/2 inches.
Courtesy the artist and Philip Slein Gallery.

Louis Cameron's Front Room exhibition premieres five photographs from his ongoing *Clouds* series. Adjacent in the lobby, two portfolios are displayed from his online initiative, *The Poster Project presents*. Cameron's art practice has always been socially and politically engaged and both exhibitions—the highly crafted *Clouds* and the internet-accessible posters—belong within the framework of his inquiries into the meaning, creation, and preservation of common space.

Each day, Cameron turns a mobile phone to the sky and takes photographs of the clouds that appear, making chance discovery part of his process. He then layers images one over the other, determining compelling spatial and color relationships for his sky portraits. Exhibiting the photographs in CAM's Front Room allows natural light to play upon the images, so *Clouds* may change, transform, and float before the viewer's gaze.

The *Clouds* series suggests other Cameron works that focus on his concerns for community space and shared experience at a time of growing government and police surveillance. In such works as *Domain Awareness* (2013–15) and *Times Square Ring of Steel* (2013) Cameron examines the surveillance eye and its unrelenting gaze upon and documentation of humanity passing through public spaces. In this respect, *Clouds* represents the ultimate shared space—the sky—which gives inspiration to a poetic body of work, a glimpse of a commons that is truly free and open.



Audio Tour

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

With *The Poster Project presents*, Louis Cameron makes use of the internet as a virtual public commons for international dialogue on contemporary cultural issues. Cameron recognizes the poster as a uniquely democratic art form, easily obtainable and commonly displayed in a variety of settings. The portfolios on view at CAM, *I Am...* and *Immigration*, are made available for free at posterprojectpresents.net, which includes instructions on how to best print the artwork.

Cameron's internet initiative was inspired by frequent visits to New York City's Zuccotti Park during the Occupy Wall Street protests, where he found a pop-up silkscreen operation creating t-shirts sporting "I am the 99%" and other such slogans. Soon after, Cameron discovered Occuprint, a website that distributes artists' posters worldwide in the spirit of political and social dialogue and change. He began offering his own poster designs online with his *Times Square Ring of Steel* series in 2013. The portfolio *Immigration* was created not long after, including contributions by artists from Morocco, Mexico, Germany, Israel, the Philippines, and Nigeria. Cameron asked the artists to "address immigration from historical, poetic, humorous, and other perspectives."

For the *I Am...* portfolio, within a tradition of such protest chants as "I am Somebody," and "I am Trayvon Martin," Cameron called for descriptions of self from the points of view of African-American men. Cameron says, "At this moment, when violence against black people is center stage in the current American cultural conversation, presenting a project by black male artists can offer valuable insights on the dialogue."



Louis Cameron, *WE ARE MEN*, 2015. Prints on 11 x 17 inch paper. Courtesy the artist and Philip Stein Gallery.



Louis Cameron, *CAUTION*, 2013. Prints on 11 x 17 inch paper. Courtesy the artist and Philip Stein Gallery.

Louis Cameron (b. Columbus, OH; lives and works in Berlin) has had solo exhibitions and projects at the Saint Louis Art Museum; the Jersey City Museum, New Jersey; The Kitchen, New York; The Armory Show; and I-20 Gallery, New York. He has also participated in group exhibitions in the United States and abroad. Cameron has been a Fellow in Painting with the New York Foundation for the Arts. His work is in the collections of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Saint Louis Art Museum. He received his BFA from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and his MFA from Tyler School of Art, Temple University in Philadelphia. He additionally completed the Artist-in-Residence program at the Studio Museum of Harlem in 2002-03.

This exhibition is generously supported by Barrett Barrera.

Louis Cameron is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Lisa Melandri, Executive Director.

Related Programs

Artist Talk: Louis Cameron

Tuesday, January 31, 6:30 pm

Conversation with the Curator

Thursday, March 9, 6:00 pm



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