



Peter Sutherland: Forests and Fires

Forests and Fires is Michigan-born, New York-based artist Peter Sutherland's first solo museum exhibition, featuring new site-specific work. Sutherland uses a variety of landscape imagery, from mountain ranges to deciduous forests, to evoke incongruous sensations of awe, danger, and the sublime. Incorporating techniques and materials intrinsic to both photography and painting, his work expands the potential of both media. The artist's process involves digitally printing photographs onto perforated vinyl, attaching the images onto sterling board, and sealing them with acrylic gel medium. By allowing the particle board's pattern and commercial branding to emerge through the vinyl, Sutherland's "paintings" appear pixelated, with a hazy atmospheric quality.

CAM's Project Wall features two tetrptychs, each depicting dense wooded landscapes. These images appear as a single continuous scene divided into two separate groups; the blank space between them operates as a window or passageway, offering viewers an illusionary point of entry. In the adjacent courtyard, large boulders are sliced in cross-section and affixed with images of a roaring fire. The flames encroach upon the forests' sensation of calm—a harbinger for environmental destruction. Through his innovative use of materials and process, Sutherland's practice transforms the traditional landscape genre into a conduit for social commentary. *Forests and Fires* sets up a dialectical relationship for the viewer, arguing that industrial progress and the natural sublime are fundamentally incompatible.



Peter Sutherland: *Forests and Fires*, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, January 15–April 3, 2016.



Audio Tour

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

Peter Sutherland (b. 1976, Ann Arbor, Michigan) lives and works in New York City. Selected solo exhibitions have been held at Gallery Target, Tokyo (2015); the Still House Group, New York (2015, 2014); Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels (2014); White Cube Gallery, London (2014); Bill Brady KC Gallery, Kansas (2013); and ATM Gallery, New York (2008). Sutherland's work has been featured in a number of group exhibitions, including shows at the Journal Gallery, New York (2015); the Still House Group, London (2015); Museum Dhont-Dhaenens, Lys, Belgium (2014); and the Nahmad Contemporary, New York (2014).

Special thanks to the Still House Group, New York.

Peter Sutherland: Forests and Fires is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Jeffrey Uslip, Chief Curator.



Peter Sutherland: Forests and Fires, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, January 15–April 3, 2016.



**Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis**
3750 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.535.4660

Connect with CAM

Visit camstl.org
Follow [@contemporarystl](https://twitter.com/contemporarystl)
on Twitter
Like [contemporaryart
museumstl](https://www.facebook.com/contemporaryartmuseumstl) on Facebook
Follow [camstl](https://www.instagram.com/camstl) on
Instagram
Sign up for enews
at camstl.org/news
Download the CAM STL
app from the [App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store)
or [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.camstl)