



# Cole Lu:

## SMELLS LIKE CONTENT

Presented by Teen Museum Studies

Invested in the intersection of language and its structure, Taiwanese-born, St. Louis-based artist Cole Lu explores the fluidity of meaning as mediated through today's digital climate.

SMELLS LIKE CONTENT is a site-specific multi-media installation that features painting, sculpture, and video. Acting as a bridge between the objects in the exhibition, Lu's video features a mixture of sourced footage pulled from the internet and footage shot by the artist of a performer whose hands are covered in paint, invoking the movements of American Sign Language to play the theremin, an electronic musical instrument activated by motion.

With the proliferation of texting, web chats, and emojis, Lu's work offers a poignant and compelling view of how daily communication is mediated by technology, shedding light on how connections are constructed and deconstructed and what is lost and what is gained.

Cole Lu: SMELLS LIKE CONTENT is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by the Teen Museum Studies class of 2015 and Tuan Nguyen, Director of Education.

Teen Museum Studies is generously supported by The Middle Fund; Elissa and Paul Cahn; and Dorte and Jim Probststein.



Cole Lu, SMELLS LIKE CONTENT, 2015. Single channel video, color, sound.  
Courtesy the artist.



### Video Interview

Watch a video of the artist as she answers questions from the Teen Museum Studies students.

View by visiting <https://goo.gl/kCRTr8>

**Cole Lu** (b. 1984, Taoyuan, Taiwan) received her MFA from the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Art at Washington University in St. Louis. She received her bachelor's degree in linguistics from Ming Chuan University (Taipei, Taiwan) and associate's degree in Japanese from Jinwen University (Taipei, Taiwan).

From the start of her career, Lu has worked simultaneously as artist and curator. She is known for her varied, multi-media practice, which articulates the subject of a contemporary, fragmented identity. She uses text, photography, sculpture, and video to explore the complex layers of what is lost in the era of digital communication. She is the assistant director at the Fort Gondo Compound for the Arts in St. Louis.

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**Teen Museum Studies**, now in its sixth year, is an innovative program that gives teens unique access to the inner workings of a museum. During the six-week program, students work closely with CAM staff to learn all aspects of museum administration—from curating to public relations to accounting. For the culminating exhibition, students curate a solo show of an emerging local artist. The teens handle all aspects of the exhibition, including reviewing artists' proposals, participating in studio visits, selecting the winning artist, and assisting with the work's installation. Students who successfully complete the program receive a paid stipend.

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