



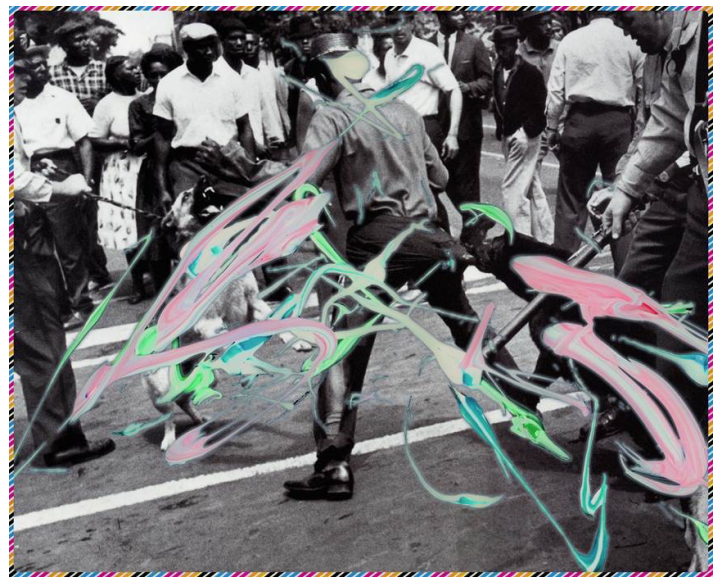
Kelley Walker: Schema

Presented by Teen Museum Studies

An unprecedented collaboration between St. Louis-area teens and acclaimed multidisciplinary artist Kelley Walker, *Schema* is organized by the 2016 class of Teen Museum Studies, CAM's career exploration program. Serving as an extension of the Museum's comprehensive examination of Walker's work—*Direct Drive*—*Schema* presents examples from several of the artist's most iconic series. Held each summer, Teen Museum Studies offers a select group of high school students the opportunity to learn from CAM staff members in all departments and culminates in the teens organizing an exhibition from start to finish.

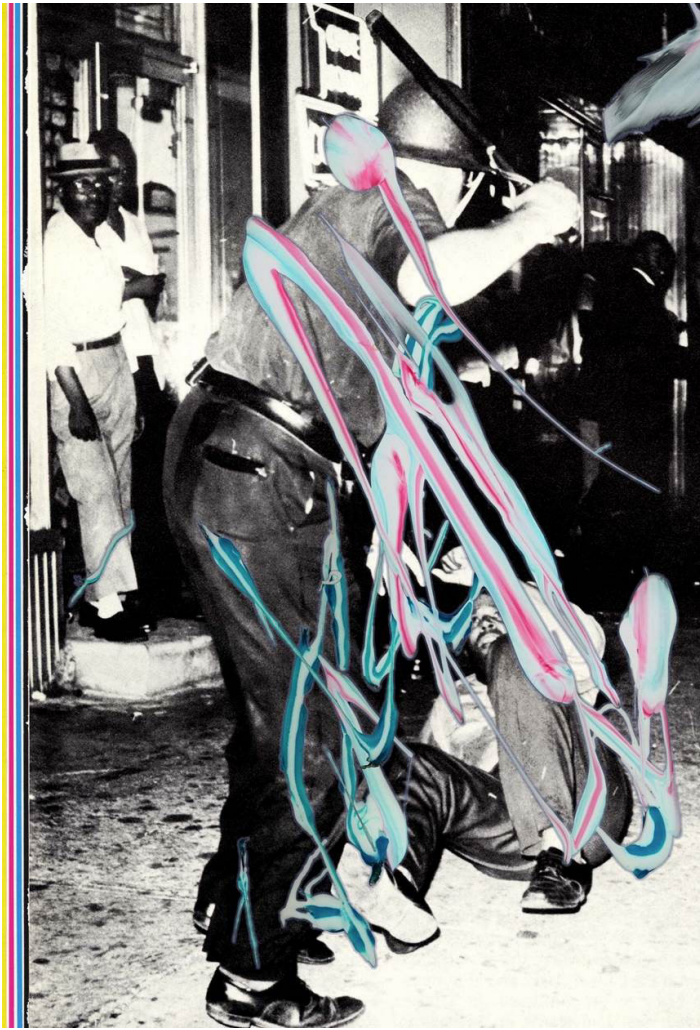
Throughout his career, Kelley Walker has explored the manipulation and repurposing of images in order to destabilize issues of identity, race, class, sexuality, and politics. In an era of digital reproduction, the artist's work draws attention to popular culture's perpetual consumption and reuse of images. Walker confronts audiences with important questions of social responsibility and systemic complacency, often bringing 1960s imagery into today's charged social and political context.

For *Schema*, the walls of CAM's Education Gallery are completely covered by digitally printed vinyl. Each wall features enlarged photographs of Civil Rights protests overlaid with scanned Crest and Aquafresh whitening toothpaste. The toothpaste overlay simultaneously draws our attention to areas of violence and alludes to the gestural brushstrokes and drips of the Abstract Expressionists. The scale of the reproductions envelopes the audience, making us feel part of the scene and situating us within a historic, yet ongoing, American narrative.



Kelley Walker, *schema; Aquafresh plus Crest with Scope.*, 2003.
Digital file, dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist; Paula Cooper Gallery, New York; Thomas Dane Gallery, London; and Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne.

Adjacent, a battered vintage Volkswagen Bug windshield—shattered on-site by the Teen Museum Studies students—is adorned with colorful decals and can be understood as a reference to current society. Outside the Education Gallery, a wall depicts repeated images of bricks, reminiscent of the surrounding architecture, tying the exhibition to our urban landscape. The students collectively view *Schema* as a space for protest, part of a larger nationwide discussion about oppression, and an investigation into how artists can shed light on the topic in order to call for positive change.



Kelley Walker (b. 1969, Columbus, Georgia) lives and works in New York City. He has exhibited widely at institutions including the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao; Le Magasin – Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum for Modern Art, Oslo; Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna; National Museum of China, Beijing; New Museum, New York; The Power Plant, Toronto; Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and Wiels – Centre d'Art Contemporain, Brussels. Walker's work is in such prestigious public and private collections as Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, Bordeaux; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; de la Cruz Collection, Miami; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Rubell Collection, Miami; Saatchi Gallery, London; Sammlung Goetz, Munich; Tate Britain, London; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and Zabudowicz Collection, London.

Teen Museum Studies, now in its seventh 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 culmination of the program, the teens handle all aspects of an 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.

Kelley Walker, *schema; Aquafresh plus Crest with tartar control*, 2003. Digital file, dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist; Paula Cooper Gallery, New York; Thomas Dane Gallery, London; and Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne.

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