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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRIVE, CAM's 2018 Gala, sports a racing theme to benefit contemporary art and art education, February 24, 2018





January 4, 2018 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) announces its 2018 Gala, *DRIVE*, which will be held at Palladium and Joule on Saturday, February 24, 2018. This evening of cocktails, dinner, and dancing is inspired by the exhibition *Salvatore Scarpitta: Racing Cars*. The late American artist not only inspires *DRIVE* because of his racing-themed artwork—including his race cars, both facsimiles and fully functional—but because of his legacy as a pioneer, a risk-taker, an innovator, and a beloved teacher and mentor to future generations of artists. These qualities are core to CAM's mission. All proceeds from *DRIVE* benefit the Museum's dynamic exhibitions and innovative education programs, through which CAM seeks to drive the imaginations of the next generation of artists and art lovers, drive conversations about art and creativity, and drive visual culture in St. Louis and beyond.

CAM invites guests to dress in cocktail attire—or racing gear. Racing themes dominate the evening. The party begins with "Start your engines!" Dinner is the time to "Fuel up." Taking to the dance floor means "Floor it," and the party concludes at the "Finish line."

DRIVE is CAM's principal fundraiser of the year, with a goal to raise nearly twenty percent of the Museum's operating budget. DRIVE benefits such initiatives as CAM's partnership with Vashon High School, which has implemented a project-based art curriculum where none had existed for five years. Through CAM, local artists and staff members meet with approximately fifty sophomores regularly, providing fundamental art education and explorations into 2D and 3D art-making. Vashon student art projects will be shown in the CAM Education Gallery as part of the 2018 Spring Exhibition season.



Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

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Hours 10-5 Wed 10-8 Thu & Fri 10-5 Sat & Sun

CAM is free. Visit often!

Gala tickets start at \$500. Sponsorship starts at \$5,000. To purchase tickets, visit **camstl.org/drive**. For information about sponsorships contact Valerie Rudy-Valli at vvalli@camstl.org or call 314.535.0770 x213.



Location & Date

Palladium and Joule, 1400 Park Place, St. Louis, MO 63104 Saturday, February 24, 2018, 9:00–11:00 pm

DRIVE Co-Chairs

Libby Goldstein and Amy Soper

DRIVE Crew Chief Sponsors

Centene Charitable Foundation, Alison and John Ferring, Susan and Robert Goldstein, and Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg

DRIVE Inside Lane Sponsors

Alexis Cossé and Erik Karanik, Edward Jones, Major Brands, PNC, Pat Whitaker and Dick Miles, Amy and Rob Soper, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, Carol and Michael Staenberg, and Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents, supports, and celebrates the art of our time. It is the premier museum in St. Louis dedicated to contemporary art. Focused on a dynamic array of changing exhibitions, CAM provides a thought-provoking program that reflects and contributes to the global cultural landscape. Through the diverse perspectives offered in its exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives, CAM actively engages a range of audiences to challenge their perceptions. It is a site for discovery, a gathering place in which to experience and enjoy contemporary visual culture. CAM is located in the Grand Center Arts District.