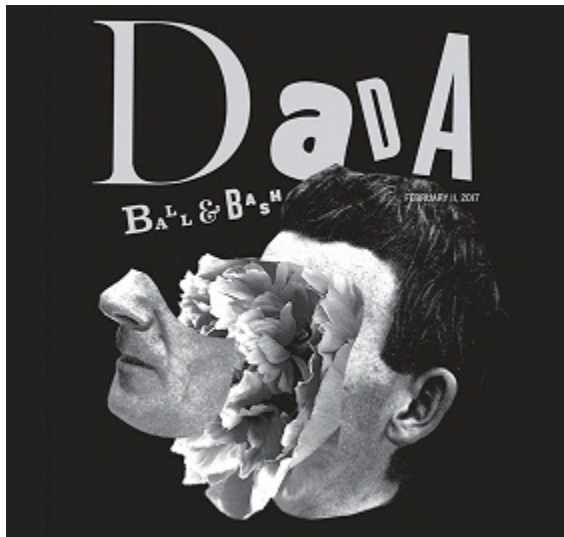


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DADA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATED AT DADA BALL & BASH
Biannual fundraiser generates nearly \$350,000 for exhibitions and education programs for Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis



February 17, 2017 (St. Louis, MO) – On Saturday, February 11, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) held its biannual Dada Ball & Bash. The fundraiser supports the thought-provoking exhibitions and innovative education programs of the Museum, and this year also celebrated the centennial of Dada, the avant-garde art movement that emerged in opposition to World War I by celebrating nonsense, irrationality, chance, and absurdity in both art and life. **The event generated nearly \$350,000** through ticket sales, the Fund the Need auction, and revenues through sponsorships that significantly passed fundraising goals. Approximately 100 of the more than 300 CAM supporters dining

at the Dada Ball raised their paddles during the auction in support of such CAM programs as Teen Museum Studies and New Art in the Neighborhood. **The goal of \$101,000—in honor of the 100 + 1 anniversary of Dada—was raised through the Fund the Need auction in a mere twenty minutes.**

In the Dada spirit guests arrived in “absurdist couture,” and enjoyed dining and dancing at Palladium and Joule in Lafayette Square. The Dada Ball Co-chairs, “the dream team” of Alison Ferring, Sue McCollum, and Susan Sherman wore original gowns created by designers from the St. Louis Fashion Incubator, with fellow co-chair Jimmy Jamieson in classic black tie. Many Dada Ball participants moved to the Dada Bash after-party, which attracted more than 200 revelers who were entertained by electro-glam headliner SSION, artist Cory Sever with his Cast of Bandits, and DJs Crim Dolla Cray and Boogieman. Dada Bash chairs Cole Lu, Bridget Melloy, and Elizabeth Tucker helped make the after-party an overwhelming success.

Highlights of the evening included the world premiere of a score set to the silent 1928 Dada film “Ghosts before Breakfast,” written and performed by The Rats and People Motion Picture Orchestra, as well as a short video encapsulating the history of Dada by Bruton Stroube Studios. Distinctive fashion trends for the evening included sheer to almost nude, ingenious usage of hardware products, a dress inspired by Frida Kahlo self-portraits, and wigs of many colors for both women and men. Special accoutrement for the Dada Ball included the imaginatively designed tablescapes created by “Jimmy’s Design Brigade,” making decorative use of toilet seats, ancient typewriters, colorful cloud formations, and other Dada-inspired *objet*.

“Dada raised creativity and joy to the pinnacle of humor endeavor,” said Lisa Melandri, CAM executive director. “CAM proudly honors Dada every other year, but we follow Dada’s model for art and life every day—a model for the celebration of free-thinking, for inclusion, and for maintaining a space that is a refuge for art and ideas. I’m heartened by the generosity shown toward CAM, and by the joy that everyone brought to the event.” CAM Board Chair Andrew Srenco acknowledged “all those who gave to the Museum, supporting its extraordinary exhibitions and impactful education programs. Thanks to the many fans of CAM and of contemporary art in St. Louis.”



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The Dada Ball & Bash lead sponsor was Neiman Marcus. Major funders included Alison and John Ferring, Sue McCollum and Major Brands, Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, James Espy, Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg, *Alive*, Parigi, Edward Jones, Jamieson Design, Susan and Robert Goldstein, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Susan and David Sherman III, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, Pat Whitaker and Dick Miles, PNC Bank, Centene Charitable Foundation, projects + gallery, U.S. Trust, Greensfelder Hemker & Gale, The Staenberg Group, Stifel, First Bank, and *Vital Voice*. CAM extends a special thanks to Bruton Stroube Studios, KDR Designer Showrooms, Midwest Valet Parking, and *Town & Style*.

CAM also thanks the participants in Jimmy's Design Brigade for constructing Dada-licious tablescapes: Alice Blue Collective, Almanac, Brandon Anschutz, Arlene Lillie Interior Design, Damon Atchison, Balloonville Productions, Buds, Daniel Burnett, Colorbridge Arts Collective, David Deatherage Design, Demestik by Reuben Reuel, Alison Ferring, Flowers & Weeds, Barb Flunker, Grand Center Arts Academy, Jacobs Engineering, Jamieson Design, Kiku Obata & Company, Kuhlmann Leavitt, Inc., Mackey Mitchell Architects, Matchbox Design Group, Mitchell Wall Architecture and Design, Once Films, Stuckenschneider Decoration & Design, Twigs & Moss, and Wildflowers.

High resolution images may be found here:

<https://camstl.box.com/s/kq4j3gex2qad6847x4mcbxinl1rhsdho>

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 Grand Center, a world-class arts and entertainment district in the heart of St. Louis.

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