

Press contact: Eddie Silva
314.535.0770 x311
esilva@camstl.org



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

3750 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.535.4660 camstl.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New and Recent Works by Deana Lawson
On view January 27–April 16, 2017



Deana Lawson, *Otisha, Kingston, Jamaica*, 2013. Inkjet print, mounted on Sintra, 35 x 45 inches. Courtesy the artist and Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago.

November 21, 2016 (St. Louis, MO) – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents an exhibition of the photography of Deana Lawson, including a premiere of new works from her latest travels as well as a series of recent photographs shot on location around the world. *Deana Lawson* will be on view January 27 through April 16, 2017.

Deana Lawson, who has been named for inclusion in the 2017 Whitney Biennial, explores and challenges the conventional representations of the black body seen throughout the history of photography. Her large format photographs are highly staged and often made in collaboration with her subjects. They depict individuals, couples, and families in both domestic and public settings, visualizing ideas of kinship, ritual, identity, and desire. Lawson's tableaux are not only intimate—her subjects depicted nude, embracing, and directly confronting the camera—but they also destabilize the notion of a passively voyeuristic relationship to photography itself. In *Otisha, Kingston, Jamaica*, for example, the honesty and vulnerability of the subject is laid bare. Indeed, the phrase “laid bare,” becomes an important aspect of Lawson's portraiture. How does one truly lay oneself bare? The images become representations not only of the individuals—photographed within their home environments to lend multiple perspectives of their intimate selves—but they also

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10–5 Wed
10–8 Thu & Fri
10–5 Sat & Sun

CAM is free. Visit often!

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document the trust built between artist and subject.

Travel is central to Lawson's practice and for the last several years, she has been tracing the trajectory of the African diaspora by creating her images in locations as varied as Haiti, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Brooklyn, and the southern United States. Often appearing snapshot-like and seemingly documentary in nature, Lawson's meticulously composed work blurs boundaries of time and place, and fact and fiction, thereby imbuing her subjects and settings with a near-mythical power.



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Deana Lawson (b. 1979, Rochester, NY; lives and works in Brooklyn) has been selected for the 2017 Whitney Biennial. Recent exhibitions include *Deana Lawson* at the Art Institute of Chicago (2015), *Greater New York*, MoMA P.S.1 (2015, 2010), *tête-à-tête* at Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Brussels, Belgium (2015), and *City Limit* at the Journal Gallery, Brooklyn (2015). Her work has also been exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the Studio Museum in Harlem. Lawson is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (2013), Aaron Siskind Fellowship Grant (2008–09), and a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant (2006), among others. Lawson received her BFA from Pennsylvania State University (2001) and MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design (2004). She is currently an Assistant Professor of Photography at Princeton University.

Related Events

Press & Patron Preview

Friday, January 27, 10:00 am
Join CAM curators for an exclusive introduction to the exhibitions. RSVP to Eddie Silva at 314-535-0770 x311 or esilva@camstl.org.

Opening Night

Friday, January 27
Member Preview 6:00 pm
Public Reception 7:00–9:00 pm

Artist Talk: Deana Lawson

Sat, Jan 28, 11: AM

Perspective: Artist on Artist

Thu, Feb 2, 6:00 pm

Contemporary Class: The Collaborative Portrait

Thu, Mar 9, 6:00 pm

Also on View in Spring

January 27–April 16, 2017

Nicola Tyson

Katherine Bernhardt

Louis Cameron

ArtReach: I Am

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.