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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**New site-specific mural by Katherine Bernhardt
On view January 27–April 16, 2017**



Katherine Bernhardt, *Fruit Salad* (2015), mural, Courtesy Venus Over Manhattan.

November 21, 2016 (St. Louis, MO) – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents internationally recognized painter and St. Louis native Katherine Bernhardt, who returns to her hometown to create a new site-specific mural on the Museum’s 60 foot-long Project Wall. The mural, *XXL SUPERFLAT PANCAKE*, will be on view January 27 through April 16, 2017. Bernhardt’s signature compositions contain a Caribbean color palette and an idiosyncratic personal and political symbology. Her paintings combine such iconography as Windex, Pac-Man heads, and Rubik’s Cubes on single, flat picture planes alongside toucans, toilet paper, and watermelon. At the periphery of her flamboyant use of color and symbols lies a sly exploration of environmental degradation. Colorful depictions of inhabitants of the open sea—hammerhead sharks, sea turtles—swimming amidst Windex and toilet paper are as much commentary on the trashing of the planet as they are oddball cartoons.

Bernhardt’s work attracts the eye like painted wallpaper, with rhythmic patterns that mimic those found in Moroccan rugs and African textiles. Her work absorbs Pop Art and Graffiti Art traditions and their preoccupations with commodification and consumption. Painting with brush or spray can, Bernhardt reinvigorates street-art actions such as “bombing” and “tagging,” collapsing distinctions between the art inside and outside the museum walls. Her mural for the Venus over Manhattan Gallery in Los Angeles, *Fruit Salad* (2015), is an amalgamation of her recent pictorial vocabulary, her Puerto Rico-inspired colors, her rhythmical patterns and structural rigor. Although the mural has become part of the tapestry of the LA streetscape — random graffiti tags are only an alley away—it is also distinct within the environment, an essay on form amidst everyday chaos. Bernhardt will be in residency at CAM January 5-7, 2017.

Katherine Bernhardt (b. 1975, St. Louis; lives and works in Brooklyn, NY) has recently received solo exhibitions at CANADA, New York (2014), Roberto Paradise, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2013), and The Hole, New York (2013). Her work has been exhibited by Salon 94 in New York, Macro Future Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome, Carbon 12 in Dubai, galleria Suzanne Tarasieve in Paris, and many more.

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

Bernhardt received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her MFA from the School of Visual Art in New York City.

Related Events

Work in progress: Katherine Bernhardt

Friday, January 6, 11:00 am

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

Sunday Studio: Mural Art with Ellie Balk

Sun, Feb 26 1:00–3:00 pm

Also on View in Spring

Nicola Tyson

Deana Lawson

Louis Cameron

ArtReach: I Am



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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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