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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

3750 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Museum debut of work by celebrated artist Mark Bradford
On view May 6–August 14, 2016**



Mark Bradford, *Receive Calls On Your Cell Phone From Jail* (detail), 2013. Mixed media on canvas, 150 panels, each: 53 3/8 x 34 3/4 inches. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth, New York.

March 22, 2016 (St. Louis, MO) – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents the museum debut of Los Angeles-based artist Mark Bradford’s *Receive Calls on Your Cell Phone From Jail*. On view May 6 through August 14, 2016, on CAM’s Project Wall, the installation is a grid of **H** paintings comprising posters that discuss the challenges surrounding receiving collect calls from prison on one’s cell phone. Through a signature collage process, Bradford abstracts the geographic, political, and socioeconomic landscape of American cities. He composes his works by affixing found materials—such as billboard posters—to canvas, often searching his South Los Angeles neighborhood for signage and rooting his work in the realities of urban life. In his mixed-media compositions, paper replaces paint and is often torn, glued, sanded, and saturated with water to create a malleable pulp: materials that cling to the city are repurposed and given a renewed agency. While formally furthering the legacy of Abstract Expressionism, Bradford’s work has a unique cartographic quality that visualizes how communities are mapped or quantified. Through his use of materials, Bradford’s form of abstraction looks outward to respond to the charged social milieu in which they are made.

Many cell phone providers restrict subscribers from receiving collect calls, making this act of communication sometimes illegal and often difficult to enact, isolating incarcerated individuals and leaving them further dislocated from the outside world. The work has twice been adapted to specific sites, and at CAM the work is exhibited across a singular wall to be “read” from left to right, embodying a melancholic passage of time. Bradford builds up and then tears down these work’s surfaces, asking viewers to consider how incarcerated people might feel consumed, abandoned, and discarded by the criminal justice system.

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

Special thanks to Hauser & Wirth, New York.

Mark Bradford: Receive Calls on Your Cell Phone From Jail is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Jeffrey Uslip, Deputy Director for Exhibitions and Programs / Chief Curator.

Mark Bradford (b. 1961, Los Angeles) lives and works in Los Angeles. He has had recent solo exhibitions at Hauser & Wirth, New York; The Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai; Gemeentemuseum den Haag, The Hague; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum, Hartford, Connecticut. In 2010 a survey of Bradford's work was organized by the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio, and traveled to the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Dallas Museum of Art; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco. Bradford's work is in the collection of multiple institutions, including the Cincinnati Art Museum; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden/The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate, London; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.



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Related Events

Artist Talk

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 pm

Press & Patron Preview: Spring Exhibitions

Friday, May 6, 10:00 am

Join exhibiting artists and CAM curators for an exclusive introduction to the exhibitions. RSVP to Ida McCall at 314.535.0770 x311 or imccall@camstl.org.

Opening Night: Summer Exhibitions

Friday, May 6

Member Preview: 6:00 pm

Public Reception: 7:00–9:00 pm

Also On View this Summer

May 6–August 14, 2016

Great Rivers Biennial
Lyndon Barrois Jr.
Nanette Boileau
Tate Foley

Nomad Studio: Green Air

New Art in the Neighborhood
Annual Student Exhibition

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.