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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The eighth Great Rivers Biennial features new work by St. Louis artists.



Left to right: Addoley Dzegede, Sarah Paulsen, and Jacob Stanley. Photos by Lyndon Barrois, Jr., Dave Moore Photography, and Madison Zoe.

March 26, 2018 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents the eighth edition of the Great Rivers Biennial (GRB) featuring new works by St. Louis artists **Addoley Dzegede**, **Sarah Paulsen**, and **Jacob Stanley**, on view May 11 through August 19, 2018. The Great Rivers Biennial Arts Awards Program, a collaborative initiative between CAM and Gateway Foundation, recognizes talented emerging and mid-career artists working in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area, providing each award recipient with a \$20,000 honorarium and a major exhibition at CAM. Three distinguished jurors—**Martin Kersels**, multidisciplinary artist and associate professor and director of Graduate Studies in Sculpture at Yale University; **Lauren Haynes**, scholar in modern and contemporary American Art and curator of contemporary art at the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art; and **Christine Y. Kim**, associate curator of contemporary art at Los Angeles County Museum of Art—selected the 2018 winners among more than 150 submissions. CAM Chief Curator Wassan Al-Khudhairi serves as the organizing curator of the exhibition.

2018 Great Rivers Biennial Projects

Through an intense exploration of pattern, **Addoley Dzegede** exposes historical connections and entanglements lurking behind the decorative artifacts that have shaped our contemporary world. The title of her exhibition, *Ballast*, refers to the weight below the surface that gives stability to the vessel above. Out of this conceptual framework, Dzegede uncovers hidden layers of identity that question the notion of authenticity. She creates vibrantly colored and patterned cloth that take on the language of “African wax prints,” with origins in 19th-century Dutch imitations of Indonesian batiks. Dzegede’s exhibition, featuring textiles, sculpture, video, and installation, conveys multiple nuanced messages out of muddled contemporary perceptions.

Weaving together sociological theory, the ill-fated plight of the passenger pigeon, immigrant family narratives, and consumer lifestyle campaigns, **Sarah Paulsen’s** multi-part installation of single-channel videos examines the construction of whiteness as identity in American culture. Using short-form stop-motion animation accompanied by a musical score by the Vernacular String Trio and Henry Claude, Paulsen presents several intersecting stories on the social and political mechanisms that enabled white privilege, reinforced by the cultural ethos of assimilation. The videos create a richly dimensional portrait of racial oppression as “invisibly” reinforced by the white population.

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CAM is free. Visit often!

The elasticity, the malleability, and the paradoxically absolute and arbitrary characteristics of time hold a fascination for sculptor **Jacob Stanley**. He creates a series of machines that explore the nature of time and our subjective understanding of time's flow. *Graham's Escapement* explores the elongation of time as a weight descends a twelve-foot tower toward the inevitable shattering of sheets of glass placed below. *Recurrent Entropy* is a rectangular loop of conveyor belts transporting porcelain objects from one conveyor to another until plates, cups, and bowls collapse into shards. *Accretion* involves audience participation, one sheet of paper added by each visitor onto a quarter-inch-thick sheet of steel. Incrementally steel and time bend.



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This exhibition is made possible by Gateway Foundation.

The 2018 *Great Rivers Biennial* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Chief Curator.

Addoley Dzegede (b. 1983, Boynton Beach, Florida) is a Ghanaian-American interdisciplinary artist whose work investigates notions of belonging, migration and location, and hybrid identities. Recent regional and national exhibitions include *Overview is a Place*, Spring/Break Art Show, New York (2018), *Another Country*, 50/50, Kansas City (2017), *Color Key*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2017), *Surface Forms*, The Fabric Workshop & Museum, Philadelphia (2017), and *Almost Now, Just Then...*, Projects + Gallery, St. Louis (2017). Dzegede received an MFA from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Art at Washington University in St. Louis.

Sarah Paulsen (b. 1977, Ames, Iowa) lives and works in St. Louis. Artist, filmmaker, and community organizer, Paulsen has exhibited widely in local and national exhibitions. Her films have been featured in the St. Louis International Film Festival; True/False Film Festival, Columbia, Missouri; Black Maria Film Festival, New Jersey City University; and others. A 2010 Community Arts Training Institute Fellow and 2015 Regional Arts Commission Artist Fellow, Paulsen has received numerous awards for her work and completed several residencies, including the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris. Paulsen received an MFA from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Art at Washington University in St. Louis.

Jacob Stanley (b. 1983, South Bend, Indiana) is a sculptor who focuses on temporary site-responsive installations. He has participated in several artist residencies, including Art Channel, Beijing, China; Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont; and, most recently, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha. He has constructed large-scale commissions for New Albany, Indiana's bicentennial, the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tennessee, and a bridge lighting project for the Festival of the River on Brown's Island in Richmond, Virginia in the summer of 2018. His recent solo exhibitions include Scheidegger Art Center, St. Charles, Missouri, and Lexington Arts League, Lexington, Kentucky. Stanley received an MFA from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Related Events

Press & Patron Preview

Friday, May 11, 10:00–11:00 am
Join the artists, curators, and GRB jurors for an exclusive introduction to the exhibitions. *RSVP to Eddie Silva at 314.535.0770 x313.*

Opening Night

Friday, May 11
Member Preview 6:00–7:00 pm
Public Reception 7:00–9:00 pm

Panel Discussion: Great Rivers Biennial Artists & Jurors

Saturday, May 12, 11:00 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 the Grand Center Arts District.



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