

LEAP Middle School Initiative The Ensemble and the Self



2018 LEAP Middle School Initiative students.

Using Trenton Doyle Hancock’s work *Good Vegan Progression #4* as a starting point, teaching-artist-in-residence Robin Verhage-Abrams introduced LEAP artists to costume design for performing arts, and provided guidance on how to translate ideas into 3D textiles. Building upon a collectively established theme, the artists conducted research to personalize their individual designs. They were encouraged to create costumes that occupied a place in Hancock’s ever-evolving environments, yet were from their individual sensibilities. In the process, the students not only learned about Hancock’s artistic practice, world-building, and the wild array of characters he has created—many from his own personal mythology—they also found, explored, and developed their own alter egos.

Robin Verhage-Abrams has designed costumes for more than sixty theater and opera productions. Working regionally, nationally, and internationally, she collaborated with companies such as Laterna Majika in Prague, Jim Henson’s Muppets, and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. She served as an associate professor at the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University, where she now enjoys emeritus status.



Audio Tour

Visit camstlaudio.org or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the artists and educators on the audio tour.

2018 LEAP participating artists: Alexa Bishop, Chase Campbell, Kimmeran Cade, Breanna Carter, Ella Cuneo, Emma Deaton, Samiah Elmore, Isabelle “Izzy” Jackson-Cameron, Amora Jones, Finn Kanak, Ivy Kanak, Peter Rowlyk, Sanai Todd, Abby Van Endem, and Angel Wells.

LEAP Middle School Initiative: The Ensemble and the Self is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by José Garza, Museum Educator.

This exhibition is generously supported by The Strive Fund and Dana Brown Charitable Trust, US Bank, Trustee.



Related Program

RE: Storytelling
Bobby Norfolk

Saturday, June 30, 1:00 pm



Trenton Doyle Hancock, *Good Vegan Progression #4*, 2005. Mixed media on felt, 119 ½ x 135 ½ inches. Installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, January 19–April 22, 2018. Photo: Tom Van Eynde.



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