

Press contact: Eddie Silva
314.535.0770 x313
esilva@camstl.org



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oliver Laric's *2000 Cliparts* to be projected on CAM's facade for the spring Street Views exhibition



Oliver Laric, *2000 Cliparts* (composite still), 2010. Single-channel video (color, silent), 2:46 minutes. Courtesy the artist; Tanya Leighton, Berlin; and Metro Pictures, New York.

November 20, 2019 (St. Louis, MO) – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents Berlin-based artist Oliver Laric's video *2000 Cliparts* (2010) for Street Views, projected on the museum façade from dusk to midnight every evening, January 18 through April 21, 2019. For the video Laric animated a sequence of 2,000 examples of copyright-free clipart taken from various sources depicting human figures in different positions. The three minute animation speeds through a range of stock characters such as martial artist, tennis player, and knight. Laric organized the images based on the form, pose, and action of the figure in relation to the image that comes before and after. The result is a spectacular, morphing portrait of human culture and cultural stereotypes. This work, a reinterpretation of his earlier *787 Cliparts* (2006), anticipates our readiness to express ourselves through found images—a key component of meme and emoji culture. *2000 Cliparts* is available for download on the artist's website—its accessibility and free distribution being integral to the work. When Laric posted the earlier video on his website, it quickly went viral. He says of that experience, "I think my proudest moment is having a video on the first page of YouTube and having a million people see it. That's just as real as showing it in a museum."

Laric's use of pre-fabricated images invites us to reconsider originality as an aesthetic criteria for art-making. Laric touches on the ease with which people accept emoji as a form of communication, symbols that serve as an emotional shorthand devoid of individual personality. The artist does not offer this as a critique, however, but a recognition of how technology has shifted ideas of originality, preciousness, and creativity, not only in art but in everyday life. Copying, repetition—these are not only artistic endeavors, but human ones.

Oliver Laric (b. 1981, Innsbruck, Austria, lives and works in Berlin) has upcoming one-person exhibitions at the Saint Louis Art Museum and S.M.A.K., Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art, Ghent. Recent one-person exhibitions include *Year of the Dog*, Metro Pictures, New York, and Tanya Leighton, Berlin (2018); *La Nympe Salmacis*, Villa Paloma, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (2018); *Panoramafreiheit*, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin (2017); *Photoplastik*, Secession, Vienna (2016); *Untitled*, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (2016); *Giving Away the Molds Will Cause No Damage to His Majesty's Casts*, Austrian Cultural Forum, London (2015); *Black Box: Oliver Laric*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (2014); and *Version*, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts (2015). He was included in the 2015 New Museum Triennial and the

-more-

Facebook
contemporaryartmuseumstl

Twitter
ContemporarySTL

Instagram
camstl

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

2016 Liverpool Biennial. He has also participated in group exhibitions at the Whitechapel Gallery, London; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Kunstverein München; and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams.

Street Views is generously supported by the **WHITAKER FOUNDATION**. The Artist Talk is generously supported by the Robert Lehman Foundation.

Oliver Laric: 2000 Cliparts is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Misa Jeffereis, Assistant Curator.



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

Related Events

Press & Patron Preview

Friday, January 18, 10:00–11:00 am

Join artists and curators for an exclusive introduction to the exhibitions. *RSVP to Eddie Silva at 314.535.0770 x313 or esilva@camstl.org.*

Opening Night

Friday, January 18

Member Preview 6:00–7:00 pm
Public Reception 7:00–9:00 pm

Artist Talk: Oliver Laric

Thursday, February 21, 6:30 pm

Co-presented with the Saint Louis Art Museum

Currents 116: Oliver Laric and New Media Series: Oliver Laric will be on view at the Saint Louis Art Museum from February 22 through May 27, 2019. The exhibition is curated by Hannah Klemm, Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, with Molly Moog, Research Assistant.

All programs, dates, and times are subject to change.

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.

###