

ArtReach Vashon High School



Vashon student engages in the process of aging paper for the *School Spirits* installation.

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents two 2019 ArtReach exhibitions featuring work by students from Vashon High School. Since August 2017, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and the faculty and administration of Vashon have partnered in the implementation of a project-based art curriculum, providing fundamental art education through introductory art courses, exploring 2D and 3D art-making to approximately sixty students per year. Prior to the partnership, Vashon had been without a consistent art program for nearly five years. Now in its second year, CAM enlists four resident teaching artists, one per quarter, who plan and teach a focus project from start to finish. This innovative and comprehensive program is under the direction of CAM's School and Community Programs Manager Miriam Ruiz, working in collaboration with Vashon instructor Tim Jennings. Vashon belongs within CAM's one-mile-radius initiative, in which staff and local artists work with our

neighboring schools and immediate community. In the spring, Vashon students will be studying architectural drafting with Marley Bell and photography with Tiffany Sutton.

School Spirits

During the second quarter, students considered the nature of their material environment and how it has changed over time. With the guidance of local artist Natalie Pinson, students created a sculptural



Audio Tour

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installation from old and discarded school furniture and supplies. Moving from antiques to obsolete technology, *School Spirits* documents the evolution of the classroom environment from yesteryear to present day. Students drew inspiration from contemporary artists like Abigail DeVille, who primarily use found objects in their installations, as they morphed quotidian objects into new creations, like old handwriting practices into soaring paper airplanes.

Self-Expressions

First quarter resident teaching artist Lois Ingrum took a thematic approach to her project, using art as a vehicle for introspection and aspiration. Ingrum drew upon both her experience as a seasoned photographer and educator to devise a series of multimedia projects to showcase and challenge students' identities and ambitions. Employing the aesthetics of Kara Walker and Kehinde Wiley, students considered how both portrait and background, figurative and non-objective design can act as conveyors of meaning. As an exhibition, *Self-Expressions* is a colorful tapestry of youthful voices, words, and imagery that oscillate between playful and earnest.

The participating artists on view are Nicholas Allen, Solara Black, Trayvaughn C. Black, Lashawn Carleon Bogard, Aniyia Bolden, Gariah S. Boyd-Lucius, Khalil R. Burris, Keyshaun Terrell Carmel, Dalonte James Chatman, Mar'Shun Trevon Collins, Avionna Lachelle Cotton, Jeremiah D. Dampier, Kajuan Ali Daniels-McMillan, Brandon Dorsey, Chrissy Dudley, Rondell Jaymohl Duff, Talisha V. Evans, Cory Demond Gragg, Kayla R. Green, Latreshia M. Harris, Arianna Renee Hayes, Mykell Hill, Tashae Lakeisha Jackson, Artavis O. Jennings, Aaliyah Blair Johnson, Jessika J. Leatherberry, Jamell Sinceres Manley, Teiona Mathias, Theodore R. Mathias, Donyae McCaskill, Demonte L. McClendon, Kaila Denise Mitchell, Deron Moffitt, Jobe A. Moore, Travion Orlando Moore, Alina Nguyen, Akai R. Outlaw, Jaheim Javar Parson, Jasmyn Javar Phelps, Kendrial Lamarr Price, Rickey A. Ramsey-Moore, Jakobe T. Ray, Jayden Roberts, Maurice Leon Robinson, Dawon Robinson, Quinterria Santiago, Amara Rose Smith, Trevon Steele, Tia M. Thompson, Karmiah A. Tippet, Oneil Marquelle Towns, Carmella N. Walker, Jamijna Victoria Westbrook, Mya E. Williams, Khalisha Williams, and Trayon A. Wright.

Natalie Pinson is an artist and interior designer. Aside from running her design firm, Creative Endeavors, she makes assemblages and large-scale installations from surplus material and found objects. Recently, she designed an Alice in Wonderland-inspired putting green for the Sheldon Art Galleries' Golf the Galleries. Pinson has a degree in interior design from Middle Tennessee State University.

Lois Ingrum is a photographer and runs Ingrum Studios LLC. Ingrum's tireless dedication as an instructor to St. Louis youth is evidenced through her work with institutions such as St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis ArtWorks, Saint Louis Art Museum, and Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. In her long-term photography series, *The Doll Project*, Ingrum documented the makeshift memorials that dot the urban landscape, denoting a place where someone had died a violent death. Ingrum has an undergraduate degree in Business Management and a master's in Education.

ArtReach: Vashon High School is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Miriam Ruiz, School and Community Programs Manager.

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