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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DRIVE, CAM's 2018 Gala, breaks Fund the Need auction record.**



Left to right: *DRIVE* Co-chair Libby Goldstein, CAM Board Chair Alexis Cossé, CAM Executive Director Lisa Melandri, and *DRIVE* Co-chair Amy Soper. Photo by Suzy Gorman.

**March 6, 2018 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) held *DRIVE*, the 2018 Gala, on Saturday, February 24. The fundraiser was inspired by the current exhibition *Salvatore Scarpitta: Racing Cars*, and for the late-20th-century American artist's qualities as risk-taker, innovator, pioneer, and beloved mentor and teacher—qualities that are part of the institution's core values. Proceeds from *DRIVE* support CAM's dynamic exhibitions and vital education programs. **The event generated more than \$265,000** through ticket sales, the Fund the Need auction, and sponsorship revenues. Prior to the Fund the Need auction, CAM supporters at the *DRIVE* dinner heard from the young artist Lilliana Bremerkamp. A freshman at Grand Center Arts Academy, Bremerkamp expressed the importance of the CAM art programs she has been involved in since she was a sixth grader: LEAP Middle School Initiative and, currently, New Art in the Neighborhood. Following her testimonial, approximately 100 CAM supporters lifted their paddles during the auction, **raising a record \$120,000 in fifteen minutes.**

In the spirit of the Gala's theme, many guests arrived dressed in racing gear for cocktail attire, and most of the CAM staff wore jumpsuits with "DRIVE" and "CAM Pit Crew" emblazoned on them. Guests enjoyed dining and dancing at Palladium and Joule in Lafayette Square. *DRIVE* co-chairs Libby Goldstein and Amy Soper gave remarks before and after dinner, and David Kirkland served as the after-party DJ.

"The generous support CAM received at our 2018 Gala helps us to drive the imaginations of the next generation of artists and art lovers and drive our community toward a more promising future," said CAM Executive Director Lisa Melandri. "I'm heartened by the generosity shown toward CAM, and thrilled by how creative people were with our *DRIVE* theme." CAM Board Chair Alexis Cossé added, "The Museum serves as a gathering place for people from all walks of life, and the support we received at *DRIVE* helps keep CAM free and open to all."

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The *DRIVE* Crew Chief sponsors were Centene Charitable Foundation, Alison and John Ferring, Susan and Robert Goldstein, and Nancy and Ken Kranzberg. Major funders included Arcturis, Edward Jones, Elaia, First Bank, Greensfelder Attorneys at Law, Major Brands, PNC, Amy and Rob Soper, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, The Staenberg Group, Stifel, Stinson Leonard Street, Pat Whitaker and Dick Miles, and Jackie Yoon. CAM extends special thanks to Alter Trading Corporation, Beam Suntory, Noble Vines, 4 Hands Brewing Co., Evtiv., Neiman Marcus, Jay Robinovitz, and *Town & Style*.

High resolution images may be found here:

<https://camstl.box.com/s/sgsnn8j26900esqtt7iqptyh7kfn7abq>

Photos by Suzy Gorman

### **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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