

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

**Lawrence Abu Hamdan selected as a Turner Prize finalist for the exhibition
Earwitness Theatre, co-commissioned by CAM**



Lawrence Abu Hamdan, *Walled Unwalled*, 2018, installation view, Bienale de Image Mouvement, Geneva. Courtesy Maureen Paley, London. Photo: Mathilda Olmi.

May 1, 2019 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) celebrates Lawrence Abu Hamdan, who was selected as a finalist for the prestigious Turner Prize, an annual award given to a British artist by the Tate. Abu Hamdan was chosen for his exhibition *Earwitness Theatre*, which is an international co-commission by CAM and three international art venues: Chisenhale Gallery, London; Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam; and Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane. Abu Hamdan's video work, *Walled Unwalled*, included in the exhibition, was also singled out for the Turner. *Earwitness Theatre* will be on view at CAM, May 17 through August 18, 2019.

In its announcement, Tate Britain writes, "Self-proclaimed 'private ear,' Abu Hamdan's work investigates crimes that have been heard and not seen; exploring the processes of reconstruction, the complexity of memory and language as well as the urgency of human rights and advocacy. The jury was struck by Abu Hamdan's exploration of sound as an architectural element and the way he recreates particular situations through sound and performance." CAM Chief Curator Wassan Al-Khudhairi, who organized *Earwitness Theatre* for the museum, says, "We're very proud to be a co-commissioner and involved in the production of Lawrence's acclaimed exhibition. He's an artist that I think audiences will be fascinated with as his work brings up many issues with regards to human rights, the politics of listening and of witness."

Lawrence Abu Hamdan (b.1985, Jordan) is an artist and audio investigator based in Beirut, Lebanon. His background as a touring musician led him to develop a deep interest in sound and its intersection with politics, which has become an integral part of his art practice. His audio investigations have been used as evidence at the UK Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, and as advocacy with Forensic Architecture for

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organizations such as Amnesty International and Defence for Children International. The artist received his PhD in 2017 from Goldsmiths College London and is the author of the artist book *[inaudible]: A Politics of Listening in 4 Acts*. Recent solo exhibitions include Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2018); Portikus, Frankfurt (2016); and Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (2014).



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Lawrence Abu Hamdan: Earwitness Theatre is commissioned and produced by Chisenhale Gallery, London, in partnership with CAM, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, and Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane. The exhibition is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Chief Curator, with Misa Jeffereis, Assistant Curator.

Lawrence Abu Hamdan: Earwitness Theatre
Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis
May 17–August 18, 2019

Press and Patron Preview

Friday, May 17, 10:00 am
Join CAM curators and artists
for an exclusive introduction
to the exhibitions.

RSVP to Eddie Silva at
314.535.0770 x313

Opening Night

Friday, May 17
Member Preview 6:00 pm
Public Reception 7:00–9:00 pm

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis 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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