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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAM and Gateway Foundation Announce Winners of the
*Great Rivers Biennial 2020***

**Great
Rivers
Biennial**

July 1, 2019 (St. Louis, MO) – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) and the Gateway Foundation announce the three artists selected for the ninth Great Rivers Biennial Arts Award Program 2020: **Kahlil Robert Irving, Tim Portlock, and Rachel Youn**. The artists' project proposals involve kinetic sculpture, installation, ceramic, and digital prints. The award winners were chosen by a distinguished panel of jurors following individual studio visits with ten semi-finalists. More than 80 artists applied for the *Great*

Rivers Biennial (GRB), a collaborative initiative between CAM and the Gateway Foundation designed to recognize artistic talent in the greater St. Louis metro area. Generously funded by the Gateway Foundation, the GRB awards each artist with \$20,000 and a major exhibition in CAM's main galleries, on view **May 8 through August 16, 2020**.

The jurors—**José Carlos Diaz**, Chief Curator at The Andy Warhol Museum and a 2018 fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership; **Christopher Y. Lew**, the Nancy and Fred Poses Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art and co-curator of the 2017 Whitney Biennial; and **Amanda Ross-Ho**, multidisciplinary artist and participant in the 2008 Whitney Biennial—selected artists through each stage of the process. CAM's Assistant Curator, Misa Jeffereis, will serve as the organizing curator of the exhibition.

About the *Great Rivers Biennial 2020* Winners



Kahlil Robert Irving (b. 1992, San Diego, CA) received an MFA from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, and a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute. In 2018, Irving completed his first major solo exhibition, *Street Matter—Decay & Forever / Golden Age* at Wesleyan University. His first solo gallery exhibition in New York City, *Streets:Chains:Cocktails*, appeared in

2017. His work has been part of exhibitions at Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland, KS; Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles; Thomas Erben Gallery, New York; and Saint Louis University. Irving's work is in the collections of the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; Riga Porcelain Museum, Latvia; JP Morgan Chase Art Collection, New York; and the RISD Museum, Providence, among others.

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Tim Portlock (b. 1969, Chicago) is an associate professor in the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis. A 2019 Regional Arts Commission Fellow and a 2011 recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts, his exhibitions include *SPRING/BREAK Art Show*, PULSE, New York; *Ruffneck Constructivist*, curated by Kara Walker at the Philadelphia ICA; Broadstone Studios in Dublin as part of Photo Ireland; the Tate Modern as a member of the artist collective Vox Populi; and *This is Not a Gateway*, a group exhibition of outdoor video projections in London. Portlock has also exhibited at the 404 Festival in Argentina and Italy, the ISEA electronic arts festival in Japan, and Ars Electronica, Austria.



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Rachel Youn (b. 1994, Abington, PA) received their BFA from the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis. Youn has had solo exhibitions at the Bermuda Project in Ferguson, MO; Erica Popp Studios + Gallery and the Millitzer Gallery in St. Louis. Their work has been included in group exhibitions in St. Louis at the Sheldon Art

Galleries, Parapet Real Humans, the Luminary, and Flood Plain. Additional group exhibitions include Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Los Angeles; Granite City Art and Design District, Granite City, IL; Here/There, Portland, OR; Open House, Kansas City, MO; and CICA Museum, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea. Youn is a recipient of the Regional Arts Commission Artist Support Grant and the Vermont Studio Center Fellowship. (Photo credit: Thomas J. Condon)

About the Gateway Foundation

The Gateway Foundation strives to enrich St. Louis life and culture by supporting efforts to acquire, create, and improve tangible and durable art and urban design. The focus of Gateway is to foster and support cultural and artistic activities and, on occasion, related to educational activities devoted to improving the quality of life in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Visit the Gateway Foundation's website at gateway-foundation.org and Twitter feed @CitygardenSTL.

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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