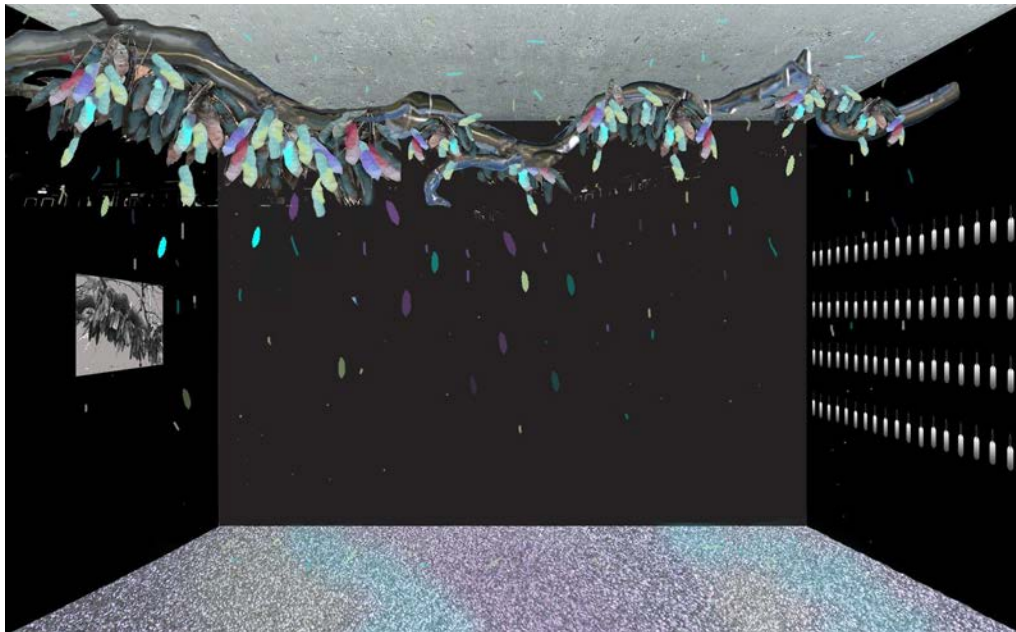


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Teen Museum Studies presents *Margaret Keller: Botanica absentia*, a futuristic memorial to lost species



Margaret Keller, *Botanica absentia*, 2019. Artist's rendering. Courtesy the artist.

July 24, 2019 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents *Botanica absentia*, an installation by St. Louis artist Margaret Keller. The exhibition, curated by the Teen Museum Studies program, is open to the public in CAM's Education Gallery, September 6 through December 29, 2019.

Botanica absentia creates a fictive memorial and archive dedicated to lost trees. Set in an imaginary future, after climate change has forced most living organisms toward either mutation or extinction, the installation serves as a commemoration to the extinct trees. The artist combines lasercut dichroic plexiglas and AlumiGraphics SILVER to create a replica limb from the 'now-extinct' redbud tree, *Cercis canadensis*. Multi-hued refractions transform the somber black walls of the space into a dystopian tribute to nature devastated by climate change. This installation emerges out of Keller's belief that at this precise moment, we are at the tipping point of a world gone wrong.

Margaret Keller (b. 1954, Kansas City, Missouri, lives and works in St. Louis) uses sculpture, installation, technology, and mixed media to address concerns with technology's impact on the survival of interdependent species as they adapt to the future. Utilizing diverse media, Keller investigates the relationship between nature, contemporary culture, and technology, along with their effects on our lives. Recent exhibitions include the Arkansas Art Center Museum, Little Rock (2017); Gallery 210, University of Missouri-St. Louis (2017); The William and Florence Schmidt Art Center Museum, Belleville, IL (2019); and the Gateway Arch National Park (2018). Keller received the 2019 Regional Arts Commission Fellowship Award for Artistic Excellence.



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

Margaret Keller: Botanica absentia is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Teen Museum Studies 2019: Jaliyah Battle, Celia Bergman, Kimmeran Cade, Dalonte Chatman, Felice Frye, Nicole Gorrell, Lillian Hayward, Helen Jiang, Isaiah Jones, Laila Smith, and Joshua Williams, with José Garza, Museum Educator, and Alyx Farns and Raegan Jackson, Learning and Engagement Interns.



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

Related Events

Press & Patron Preview

Friday, September 6, 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, September 6

Member Preview	6:00–7:00 pm
Public Reception	7:00–9:00 pm
Artist Talk:	
Margaret Keller	7:15 pm

About Teen Museum Studies

Each summer, CAM offers a select group of teens the opportunity to learn about museum careers and gain practical job skills through the innovative Teen Museum Studies program. Participants learn from CAM staff members in all departments—from curatorial to PR to accounting—and work together to curate and organize an exhibition from start to finish in CAM's Education Gallery. The exhibition features the work of a local artist selected by the students that opens with a public reception in the fall of the same year.

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.

This press release was written by members of Teen Museum Studies 2019.

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