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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CAM Spring Exhibitions open Friday, January 17, 2020

**December 17, 2019 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) Spring Exhibitions 2020 open Friday, January 17. *Liz Johnson Artur: Dusha*, features thirty years of iconic images drawn from the artist's *Black Balloon Archive*, her ongoing photographic chronicle of the lives of people of the African diaspora. *Derek Fordjour: SHELTER* is the artist's first solo museum exhibiton and includes a site-specific installation of the same name, as well as a series of his signature paintings exhibited on the Project Wall. Marina Zurkow's video *The Thirsty Bird* reflects the dysfunctional relationship between oil and water in our everyday lives, shown on the museum's mezzanine during regular visiting hours and on the building's facade every evening as part of Street Views. In the Education Galleries, *ArtReach: Vashon High School*, features the latest iteration of works created through the Vashon-CAM partnership, now in its third year.

During Opening Night festivities, 2019 DJ-in-residence [Syna So Pro](#) (Syrhea Conaway) returns to CAM to perform music she composed in response to the photography of Liz Johnson Artur. Johnson Artur selected the local music artist for this unique live exchange between music and photography.

#### Patron & Press Preview

Friday, January 17, 10:00 am  
Join Liz Johnson Artur, Derek Fordjour, and CAM curators for an exclusive introduction to the exhibitions. RSVP to Eddie Silva at [esilva@camstl.org](mailto:esilva@camstl.org).

#### Opening Night

Friday, January 17  
Member Preview 6:00–7:00 pm  
Public Reception 7:00–9:00 pm  
Syna So Pro 7:00 & 7:45 pm



#### Liz Johnson Artur: Dusha

In this exhibition more than sixty photographs, two videos, and a selection of sketchbooks from Liz Johnson Artur's ongoing *Black Balloon Archive* will be on view. Johnson Artur, a self-described "product of migration"—daughter of a Russian mother and a Ghanaian father—makes pictures driven by a desire for connection, a link to other people of the African diaspora.

#### Artist Talk

Saturday, January 18, 11:00 am  
The London-based artist talks about her work with Drew Sawyer, who organized the exhibition *Liz Johnson Artur: Dusha* for the Brooklyn Museum.

#### RE: Soul

Thursday, March 19, 6:30 pm  
*Dusha* is Russian for "soul." With DJ Reminise, CAM DJ-in-Residence [James Biko](#) traces the history of soul music and contemporary sampling in this interactive spinning session.

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

The Artist Talk is generously supported by the Robert Lehman Foundation. Special thanks to Barrett Barrera Projects.

Liz Johnson Artur, *Untitled (PDA)*, 2018. Chromogenic photograph, 24 x 20 inches. Courtesy the artist. © Liz Johnson Artur.



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### Derek Fordjour: SHELTER

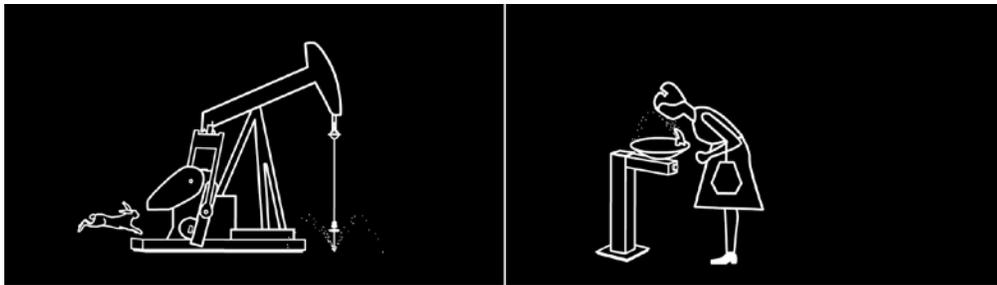
A New York-based artist of Ghanaian heritage, Derek Fordjour works in the realms of figurative painting, installation, and sculpture. For CAM he creates a site-specific, immersive installation, *SHELTER*, a makeshift ramshackle structure that places museum-goers at the heart of a storm. Fordjour's first solo museum exhibition also features the return of CAM's Project Wall, where the artist will hang paintings from his *Player Portraits* series.

### Artist Talk

Thursday, February 20, 6:30 pm  
Derek Fordjour talks about his practice, methods, and themes with Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Chief Curator.

The exhibition is generously supported by Ann R. Ruwitch and John Fox Arnold. The Artist Talk is generously supported by Heartland Coca-Cola Bottling Company and the Robert Lehman Foundation.

Derek Fordjour, *Tandem Blue*, 2018. Acrylic, charcoal, oil pastel and foil on newspaper mounted on canvas. 40 x 60 inches. Courtesy Night Gallery, Los Angeles.



### Marina Zurkow: The Thirsty Bird

Marina Zurkow is a media artist focused on the intersection of nature and culture, her work offering wry and pointed critiques of this perilously dysfunctional relationship. Her *Street Views* video is inspired by a two-week residency in Texas's Permian Basin, where she met with geologists, naturalists, cattlemen, oilmen, and activists. From these diverse interactions and research, Zurkow offers *The Thirsty Bird*, parallel narratives of two essential, yet incompatible elements, oil and water.

*Street Views* is generously supported by the Whitaker Foundation.

Marina Zurkow, *The Thirsty Bird*, (still), 2012. Video animation (black and white, silent), 5:12 minutes. Animation assistance by Lindsay Nordell. Courtesy the artist and bitforms gallery, New York.



### **ArtReach: Vashon High School**

Now in its third year, the Vashon-CAM partnership embarks on another year of art-making. Painter Luisa Otero Prada guided the classes through a survey of masks from cultures all over the world. Interdisciplinary artist Esther Neff shared her knowledge of stitching, quilting, and embroidery. Selections of masks, fashion, and a collaborative class tapestry will be on display.



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ArtReach is generously supported by the Institute for Museum and Library Services; the Dana Brown Charitable Trust, U.S. Bank, Trustee; Wells Fargo Advisors; the Crawford Taylor Foundation; Maritz; The DeWitt and Caroline Van Evera Foundation; and the Norman K. Probststein Charitable Foundation.

Masks created by Vashon students, 2019.

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### **About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis**

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis works to enrich lives and inspire curiosity, creativity, and learning through experiences with contemporary art. Focused on a dynamic array of changing exhibitions, the Museum reflects and contributes to the global cultural landscape while engaging thousands of visitors through a wide array of public programs. CAM nurtures the creative minds of our city's youth through free, in-depth art education, making a long-lasting impact on the community. We are a site for discovery, a welcoming space, free and open to all.

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