

# ArtReach Vashon High School



Masks created by Vashon students, 2019.

CAM marks its third year of ArtReach programming in partnership with Vashon High School with two exhibitions. On the mezzanine, *Encounter with the Mask* features work made under the guidance of local painter Luisa Otero Prada. Mask-making served as an introduction to visual culture around the world, as well as a means toward self-expression. Students learned how masks contain both ritualistic and protective elements that have evolved through many cultures, with recurring themes that have remained in folk art traditions, art made for galleries and museums, and in popular culture. Students navigated a survey of masks from cultures all over the world and learned about the variety of media, materials, and methods used to

create them. Equipped with the information presented, the students designed and fabricated their own masks from cardboard, papier-mâché, and other found materials, drawing upon their explorations of ritual, function, and costume.



## Audio Tour

Visit [camstl.org/audio](http://camstl.org/audio) on a mobile device to hear an interview with the teaching artists.

*Our Own Gaze*, in the Education Gallery, presents examples of the accumulated practical techniques students gained in sewing, patterning, embroidery, appliqué, and design. Under the direction of interdisciplinary artist Esther Neff, the students explored fabric art, fashion as "high art," domestic textiles, folk art, and consumer goods. Through a series of projects—including the hats and tapestries on display—students investigated personal and cultural meanings behind symbols and motifs, drawing significance from their own interests and aesthetics, both as individual artists and as members of historic, geographic, and cultural communities. Students learned how to translate drawings into scaled patterns and then into fabric, applying their preferred learned techniques throughout the quarter to designed individual panels. *Our Own Gaze* culminates with a collaborative tapestry composed and assembled by the class, combining geometric panels with more representational and abstract panels.

Local painter **Luisa Otero Prada** draws inspiration from her native Colombia, describing her work as finding influence in the literary and artistic genre of magic realism. She attended La Salle University, in Colombia, where she majored in architecture, moving to the United States in 2001. Otero Prada has shown her work at Third Floor Gallery, Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis Artist Guild, Old Orchard Gallery, St. Louis Community College, Chesterfield City Hall, Old North Community Art Gallery, Manchester Arts, Northern Arts Council, 14th Street Gallery, and the Missouri History Museum.

**Esther Neff** is a civic practitioner and performance maker who often uses fabric arts, sculpture, and installation to deal with modes of production and forms of collaboration. Neff has recently moved to St. Louis to help establish MARSH (Materializing and Activating Radical Social Habitus), a food and labor cooperative, diner, artspace, and foodhub in Carondelet. Neff is also the founder of PPL (Panoply Performance Laboratory), a think tank, organizational entity, and performance collective that makes "operas of operations." Her work has been shown, performed, realized, and published Internationally across theater, dance, visual art, and experimental philosophy contexts.

## 2019–20 ArtReach Students

DeAndre Aron	Davion Mitchell
DeMarea Ball-Brown	Renada Mitchell
Niko Blount	Taihjah Moore
Tylega Bruce	Jerrius Redmond
Davon Bush	Tiona Robinson
Dalonte Chatman	Anthony Rodgers
TaJaun Curry	Shamar Rowe
Jerryonte Davis	Shareif Rowe
Jayla DeLancy	Rickey Smith
Dania Downer	Ethan Sparkman
Rondell Duff	Dekorion Taylor
Donovan Edwards	Unique Tucker
Christopher Frye-Pleasant	Treyvion Walker
Malia Graham	Jalen White
Dwon Haughton	Sequoia Whitfield
Angelia Henderson	Deshawn Williams
Trey Jackson	Jo'Neise Williams
Alyssa Jacobs	Kevin Williams
Kaliyah James	Markalynn Williams
Jeremiah Martin	Daron Wilson
Courtney McKinley	Dwayne Worthen

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*ArtReach: Vashon High School* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Miriam Ruiz, School and Community Programs Manager.



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