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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CAM invites museumgoers to share personal reflections for StoryCorps in the summer-long program After Shelter**



*Derek Fordjour: SHELTER*, installation view. Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, January 17–August 23, 2020. Photo: Dusty Kessler.

**July 1, 2020 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis announces a new microprogram to run throughout the summer exhibition season, July 9 through August 23, 2020. With Derek Fordjour's immersive installation [SHELTER](#) as its focus, *After Shelter*, offers museumgoers the opportunity to record their personal reflections on art and their COVID-19 experiences. The questions, asked by CAM staff, include: What does it feel like to be experiencing this artwork right now? How have the last four months shaped you? What is your hope for the future?

These audio recordings will be archived and shared with [StoryCorps](#), the national nonprofit whose mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories. Each recording takes place within the Fordjour installation and becomes part of American history in the StoryCorps archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

This program is free and available as time and space permit, on a first come, first served basis. Visitors will be interviewed individually within the installation for fifteen minutes by museum staff, following a touchless process that is limited to one person at a time and observes health and safety standards.

Fordjour's *SHELTER*, a seemingly makeshift shanty of corrugated metal walls, plastic rain-proofing, and nearly 20,000 pounds of dirt floor, was a destination space for museumgoers prior to COVID-19 closures. The spare dwelling contains a number of Fordjour's colorful, multi-textured paintings and sculptures, and provides alarming sound effects, as if the visitor is suddenly within the heart of a storm. *SHELTER*,

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created for the museum in January of this year, offers new layers of meaning in the context of the ongoing pandemic and the current mass mobilizations against police brutality and racial injustice across the globe. In light of these events, *SHELTER* invites further exploration and interpretation.

**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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