

Press contact: Eddie Silva  
314.387.0405  
[esilva@camstl.org](mailto:esilva@camstl.org)



Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

3750 Washington Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314.535.4660 [camstl.org](http://camstl.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CAM Fall/Winter exhibitions feature the work of Yowshien Kuo presented by Teen Museum Studies, and student work by young artists in New Art in the Neighborhood and LEAP Middle School Initiative, opening Sep 11**



Yowshien Kuo, *Natural as Prometheus Hating the Birds*, 2020. Acrylic, gouache, chalk, Carrara marble, bone ash, glass, glitter, plastic and mixed fibers, on canvas, 28.5 X 30 inches. Courtesy the artist.

**August 27, 2020 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents new work in its Exhibition Galleries, opening September 11. The intensive studio art programs Teen Museum Studies, New Art in the Neighborhood, and LEAP Middle School Initiative are each represented in the Museum's Fall/Winter 2020–21 exhibition season, on view September 11, 2020 through February 21, 2021.

The annual Teen Museum Studies exhibition features *Yowshien Kuo: Western Venom*, organized and curated by the students over the summer. Kuo was selected from among twenty-one artist proposals. Kuo, who received his MFA from Fontbonne University in 2014, uses his art to explore identity and culture against expectations of what it means to be American. In his paintings, Kuo's main protagonist, a cowboy persona, is a symbolic representation the artist created to embody his struggle to fit within American culture.

Adjacent to Kuo's exhibition are works by the young artists who participated in New Art in the Neighborhood and LEAP Middle School Initiative, fall 2019 through summer 2020. NAN's spring session was interrupted by COVID-19, when the students were

-more-

**Instagram**  
[camstl](https://www.instagram.com/camstl)

**Facebook**  
[contemporaryartmuseumstl](https://www.facebook.com/contemporaryartmuseumstl)

**Twitter**  
[ContemporarySTL](https://twitter.com/ContemporarySTL)

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

**CAM is free. Visit often!**

exploring stop-motion animation. On display at CAM are works created during a scale-model and miniature workshop with artist Elizabeth Desrosiers. Originally intended for use in their animated shorts, these models became the focus of the young artists' photography, as they constructed interior scenes eerily reminiscent of time spent while sheltering in place.



Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

LEAP artists in fall 2019 worked with teaching artist Sukanya Mani, who introduced them to the artificial fabric Tyvek, unique for its ability to be used as a flat surface or three-dimensional object. The artists manipulated the material in multiple ways, rendering repeated patterns and giving flat forms dimensionality. Prior to the interruption of the spring 2020 session, LEAP students worked with teaching artist Janie Stamm, who led the group in the making of *Lost Islands*, whole worlds constructed with cardboard and papier-mâché. At CAM, visitors will see islands in different stages of completion, as though frozen in the moment when normal activity stopped.

### **Teen Museum Studies**

Teen Museum Studies offers greater St. Louis area teens the opportunity to learn about museum careers and gain practical job skills through this innovative program. Participants learn from CAM staff members in all departments—curatorial, public relations, marketing, development, and more—and work collaboratively to curate and organize an exhibition from start to finish. The exhibition features the work of a local artist selected by the teens.

Teen Museum Studies is generously supported by The Strive Fund, Wells Fargo Advisors, and Crawford Taylor Foundation.

*Yowshien Kuo: Western Venom* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Candace Betts, Deja Brewer-Moore, Keteyian Cade, Sara Cao, Saskia Dentman, Samiah Elmore, Christian Evans, Isabelle “Izzi” Jackson-Cameron, Paris Kinsley, Laila Smith, Katherine Welch, and Kelly Woodyard with support from José Garza, Museum Educator.

### **New Art in the Neighborhood**

In this, its twenty-fifth year, CAM's New Art in the Neighborhood program continues to nourish the creative minds of our city's talented young artists. Every Saturday afternoon during the school year, up to twenty teens, selected through a competitive application process, come to CAM for pre-professional-level art instruction with educational staff and visiting artists. This intensive approach provides participating students with opportunities and resources that are not available in their regular school curriculum. This free and nationally acclaimed program offers students experience with materials used in contemporary art practice.

New Art in the Neighborhood is generously supported by Bayer Fund and Crawford Taylor Foundation.

*New Art in the Neighborhood: Interiors* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by José Garza, Museum Educator. Spring 2020 New Art in the Neighborhood artists: Riannah Bauder, Deja Brewer-Moore, Kimmeran Cade, Orquidea Campbell-Espinoza, Dalonte Chatman, Sophia Edgell, Isabelle “Izzi” Jackson-Cameron, Finn Kanak, Audrey LaBeaume, Olivia Langbehn, Cecilia Merlone, Margaret Nigh, Peter Rowlyk, Mya Stevens, Kallista Stewart, Kailee Templemire, Katherine Welch, Jamijna Westbrook, and Chelsea Zuckerman.



Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

### **LEAP Middle School Initiative**

Designed for the young artist interested in an in-depth exploration of contemporary art practices and mediums, this free ten-week-long after-school program gives students the opportunity to work closely with professional St. Louis-based artists and educators in an atmosphere of focused attention and mentorship. Fifteen students from the greater St. Louis area are selected to focus on one particular contemporary practice or medium each semester.

LEAP Middle School Initiative is generously supported by The Strive Fund; Dana Brown Charitable Trust, US Bank, Trustee; and Crawford Taylor Foundation.

*LEAP Middle School Initiative: Lost Islands* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by José Garza, Museum Educator. 2019/20 LEAP artists: Alexa Bishop, Shane Box, Emma Deaton, Saskia Dentman, Samiah Elmore, Jesse Heater, Laila Jaoko, Amora Jones, Abril Kaisin, Fern Kanak, Ivy Kanak, Cozzette Motherhead, Zenga Stroff, Sanai Todd, Oliver Vollman, and Yaa Williams.

### **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.

###