

To the St. Louis Community:

Over the last several years, CAM has presented artists from a wide range of backgrounds, races, ethnicities, perspectives, and geographic locations. Kelley Walker: Direct Drive was conceived as one part of a larger, multifaceted exhibition program intended to open artistic dialogues on culture and society.

On Saturday, September 17, Walker delivered an artist's talk where questions were raised fairly and honestly. Following the talk, I recognize that, in trying to moderate the question-and-answer session, I unintentionally ended the conversation too soon, and for this I sincerely apologize. I believe the conversation that started during the artist talk *needs to* continue, and I am committed to seeing that it does.

In recognition and acknowledgement that some of the works in the exhibition are painful to the community, we have modified the experience of viewing the exhibition, in concert with the artist. Works that have generated anger and caused pain are now in a space where viewers have the choice whether or not to view them.

I am fully committed to artistic dialogue and debate. I am also committed to pursuing thoughtful and thorough programmatic and educational opportunities that will allow community responses to be expressed, seen, and heard.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Uslip
Deputy Director for Exhibitions and Programs/Chief Curator
Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis