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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CAM's 2021 Dada Ball raises more than \$210,000 to support exhibitions and education programs



Dada Ball Co-Chairs Susan Barrett and Margaret McDonald demonstrate their “couch couture” while co-hosting the virtual fundraiser.

**May 4, 2021 (St. Louis, MO)** – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) held its biannual Dada Ball virtually on April 30, 2021. A Silver Linings Virtual Celebration included the home-delivery of Dada Boxes filled with good things for eating, drinking, and playing. Dada Ball guests enjoyed a CAM-produced video extravaganza that included shout-outs from a star-studded array of artists who had exhibited at the museum: Katherine Bernhardt, Claudia Comte, Derek Fordjour, Big Freedia, Hayv Kahraman, Marilyn Minter, Toyin Odutola, Pedro Reyes, Amy Sberald, Laurie Simmons, Nicola Tyson, and Lisa Yuskavage. Musical performances featured low-fi punk from Moor Mother, out of Philadelphia, and from St. Louis the jazz vocals and upright bass of Tonina and the stirring horns and percussion of the Red and Black Brass Band, who marched and played through the streets of the city last summer.

This year's party theme was inspired by an end-of-2020-review comment in *The New Yorker*: “The silver lining of this year is the reassurance that art is unstoppable.” Dada Ball guests were encouraged to give to help maintain CAM's unstoppable at the museum, in schools, and throughout the community, whether on-site or online. They responded by **generating more than \$210,000 through ticket sales, the Fund the Need auction, and sponsorship revenues**. Although no one was raising a paddle during Fund the Need this year, **guests texted and pledged more than \$72,000 over the course of the celebration and through the weekend**. An After Party Zoom Room allowed guests to see and be seen in their “couch couture,” meet in intimate chat rooms, and toast the unstoppable of contemporary art with pink cloud cocktails.

“The Dada Ball is always a night to remember,” says CAM Executive Director Lisa Melandri. “This year was certainly a wholly different affair from the Dada-inspired, in-person frivolity associated with our most notorious fundraiser. But I still saw some fantastic wardrobes and felt a true Dada spirit throughout the night. Even virtually, you could feel the love and support of CAM and its programs from everyone. Their generosity is a silver lining to all that CAM is and does.”

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**Hours**  
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10–8 Fri  
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**CAM is free. Visit often!**

Dada Ball Co-Chairs Susan Barrett and Margaret McDonald kept the party moving as co-hosts of the event with their lively commentary, exuberant introductions, and stunning costume changes.

In keeping with the cloud theme of the celebration, Alexis M. Cossé and Erik Karanik were the Dada Ball Altostratus Sponsors. Edward Jones and Penny Pennington and Mike Fidler were Cumulus Sponsors. Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg were the Nimbus Sponsors. The Stratus Sponsors were Barrett Barrera Projects, Ferring Family Foundation. First Bank, HOK, Jamieson Design Associates, Moneta, Carol and Michael Staenberg, Howard and Kate Stephens, Stifel, The Strive Fund, Pat Whitaker and Dick Miles, and Jackie Yoon. CAM beams special thanks to Major Brands, Dierberg Vineyards, and Orlando V Thompson II.

**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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