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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALL FOR ARTISTS: GREAT RIVERS BIENNIAL 2022
Applications due August 18, 2021

Great Rivers Biennial

June 30, 2021 (St. Louis, MO) – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and the Gateway Foundation announce the call for artists for the tenth edition of the Great Rivers Biennial. This collaborative initiative identifies talented emerging and mid-career artists working in the greater St. Louis metro area, provides them with financial assistance, and gives them significant professional exposure across the Midwest and nationally. The artists selected receive \$20,000 and are featured in the **Great Rivers Biennial exhibition at CAM, September 9, 2022–February 12, 2023.**

“The Great Rivers Biennial was put in motion as soon as CAM opened in 2003,” says Lisa Melandri, CAM Executive Director. “By the summer of 2004 the inaugural exhibition was on view. I think it says a lot about CAM and the Gateway Foundation—our Great Rivers Biennial sponsor and partner through all these years—that a major exhibition devoted to local talent would be a part of this institution since its very beginnings. Gateway Foundation invested in the future of art in the region and has maintained its dedication through ten iterations of the Biennial. Each one features prominent and esteemed jurors from across the country who engage with the many wonderful artists that work in St. Louis. Every Biennial is different, surprising, and captivating. A legacy of St. Louis talent has passed through CAM’s galleries since 2004, and with each Great Rivers Biennial we anticipate a continuation of that legacy.”

As with the previous Biennials, a distinguished panel of jurors will review all submissions that meet the eligibility requirements. Ten artists will be selected as semi-finalists, with these artists then receiving studio visits from the jurors. Up to three artists will be selected for the Great Rivers Biennial award. The 2022 Great Rivers Biennial jurors are **Carmen Hermo**, Associate Curator for the Brooklyn Museum’s Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art; **Jen Liu**, artist; and **Hamza Walker**, Director of LAXART and adjunct professor at the School of Art Institute of Chicago. Walker was a juror for the 2004 Great Rivers Biennial and we are delighted to have him join us again for this anniversary edition. CAM Chief Curator Wassan Al-Khudhairi and Assistant Curator Misa Jeffereis will act as the organizing curators, and artists will work closely with them toward the successful implementation of their exhibitions.

Emerging and mid-career artists are invited to submit work from any of the following categories: drawing, film and video, installation, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. To be eligible, artists must have lived within the six counties of the St. Louis metro area for at least one year prior to the application deadline and continue to reside in the area during the designated planning, production, and exhibition

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

period (metro area is defined as St. Louis City and the counties of St. Louis, Jefferson, and St. Charles in Missouri, or St. Clair, Madison, and Monroe counties in Illinois). **For complete eligibility requirements and to apply, visit camstl.org/grb. Applications due August 18, 2021, 11:59pm CT.**



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Museum St. Louis

CAM will host two free Great Rivers Biennial Application Workshops as a guide to the submission of a competitive application. The workshops will be led by Brigid Flynn, Midwest Artist Project Services co-founder, and members of CAM staff.

Great Rivers Biennial Application Workshops

[Thursday, July 22, 2021, 6:00 pm](#), at CAM

[Saturday, July 24, 2021, 11:00 am](#), on Zoom

The workshops are free. Registration is required.

Previous Great Rivers Biennial recipients:

2020: Kahlil Robert Irving, Tim Portlock, and Rachel Youn

2018: Addoley Dzegede, Sarah Paulsen, and Jacob Stanley

2016: Lyndon Barrois Jr., Nanette Boileau, and Tate Foley

2014: Brandon Anschultz, Carlie Trosclair, and Cayce Zavaglia

2012: David Johnson, Asma Kazmi, and Mel Trad

2010: Martin Brief, Sarah Frost, and Cameron Fuller

2008: Juan William Chávez, Corey Escoto, and Michelle Oosterbaan

2006: Jason Wallace Triefenbach, Moses, and Matthew Strauss

2004: Jill Downen, Adam Frelin, and Kim Humphries

About the Jurors



Carmen Hermo is the Associate Curator for the Brooklyn Museum's Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art. She curated *Roots of The Dinner Party: History in the Making* (2017), *Kameelah Janan Rasheed: Are We Reading Closely?* (2020), *Baseera Khan: I Am an Archive* (2021, forthcoming), formed part of the *Nobody Promised You Tomorrow: Art 50 Years After Stonewall* (2019) curatorial collective, and co-organized *Half the Picture: A Feminist Look at the Collection* (2018) and the Brooklyn presentation of *Radical Women: Latin American Art, 1960–1985* (2018) among other exhibitions. Previously, Hermo

was Assistant Curator for Collections at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Hermo received her BA in Art History and English from the University of Richmond and her MA in Art History from Hunter College.



Jen Liu is a New York-based visual artist working in video, painting, dance performance, and biomaterial, on topics of national identity, economy, and the re-motivating of archival artifacts. She is a 2019 recipient of the Creative Capital Grant, a 2018 recipient of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Art + Technology Lab grant, and was a 2017 recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship in Film/Video and New York State Council on the Arts/New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Digital/Electronic Art. She has presented work at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, The

Kitchen, and the New Museum, New York; the Royal Academy and Institute of

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Contemporary Art, London; Kunsthaus Zurich; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; the Aspen Museum of Art; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, Spain, as well as the 2014 Shanghai Biennale and the 2019 Singapore Biennial. She has received multiple grants and residencies, including Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany; Sommerakademie, Bern, Switzerland; De Ateliers, Amsterdam; and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Pioneer Works, and International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York.



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis



Hamza Walker is Director of LAXART, a nonprofit art space in Los Angeles, and adjunct professor at the School of Art Institute of Chicago. Prior to joining LAXART in 2016, he was director of education and associate curator at the Renaissance Society, a non-collecting contemporary art museum in Chicago. Recent exhibitions at LAXART include Kandis Williams and Cassandra Press' *The Absolute Right to Exclude* (2021) and *Postcommodity: Some Reach While Others Clap* (2020). Notable shows at the Renaissance Society include *Suicide Narcissus* (2013), *Several Silences* (2009), *Black Is, Black Ain't*

(2008), and *New Video, New Europe* (2004). Walker also co-curated (with Aram Moshayedi) the 2016 iteration of *Made in LA*. He has won the Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement (2004) and the Ordway Prize (2010) for impact on the field of contemporary art.

About the Gateway Foundation

The Gateway Foundation strives to enrich St. Louis life and culture by supporting efforts to acquire, create, and improve tangible and durable art and urban design. The focus of Gateway is to foster and support cultural and artistic activities devoted to improving the quality of life in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Visit the Gateway Foundation's website at gateway-foundation.org and Twitter feed [@CitygardenSTL](https://twitter.com/CitygardenSTL).

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. For more information, visit camstl.org.

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