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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local sculptor Summer Brooks selected by Teen Museum Studies for exhibition at CAM



Summer Brooks, *Crown*, 2020. Spray foam, terracotta, resin, mica powder, gold leaf, 21 x 21 x 5 inches. Courtesy the artist.

August 18, 2021 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents *Summer Brooks: The New Garden Variety*, an exhibition of the local sculptor's work organized by the students of Teen Museum Studies. Brooks, an emerging artist from O'Fallon, Illinois, challenges harmful narratives of beauty standards for African American women in her work. She hopes to engage viewers in conversations about stereotypes placed onto people of color by colorism and racism. Her work is on view in CAM's Education Galleries as part of the Museum's fall/winter exhibitions, September 3, 2021–February 13, 2022.

Through an immersive program, Teen Museum Studies participants worked with Brooks to present a new series of sculptures that take mannequin molds with Eurocentric features and transform them into figures with African features, using black-washed terracotta and unconventional materials. The exhibition aims to elevate and celebrate the power of positive representation of Black women.

Also on view in the Education Galleries are *New Art in the Neighborhood: Making Comics* and *LEAP Middle School Initiative: enMask & Mythos*. While meeting via Zoom over the course of the pandemic, *New Art in the Neighborhood* took the time to hone their foundational drawing skills and leaned into narrative for their exhibition. *LEAP Middle School Initiative* artists explored comics as an art form and learned about mask making as a means of personal and cultural expression for their group show.

Summer Brooks (b.1999, Okinawa, Japan) recently completed her senior exhibition, *Black Magic*, at the McKendree University Gallery of Art, Lebanon, IL, in 2021. Her work has also been included in a variety of exhibitions at McKendree's gallery, as well as at Art Saint Louis, St. Louis, MO, and the Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, MO. Brooks is a recipient of the Belger Crane Foundation Residency in Kansas City, MO, and the NCECA Multicultural Fellowship. She received a BA from McKendree University in 2021.

Teen Museum Studies is a summer intensive internship that engages high school students in direct exposure to museum careers, develops collaboration and critical thinking skills, and offers the chance to select and work with a St. Louis-based artist to organize an exhibition that premieres at CAM in September. This immersive program provides avenues for artistic engagement beyond studio practice and hands-on experience working with artists, museum staff, and creative peers.

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

Teen Museum Studies is generously supported by The Strive Fund and Crawford Taylor Foundation.

Summer Brooks: The New Garden Variety is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Keteyian Cade, Ruby Folkner, Halla Jones, Finn Kanak, Ivy Kanak, Elizabeth Keeley, Annie Li, Cozette Mothershead, Ellen Rose, Laila Smith, and Katherine Welch, with support by Jason Vasser-Elong, Museum Educator.



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Related Events

Friday, September 3

Patron Preview 10:00–11:30 am
Member Preview 5:00–6:00 pm
Public Opening 6:00–9:00 pm
For press access on Opening Day
RSVP to Eddie Silva at 314.387.0405
or esilva@camstl.org

Saturday, September 25, noon

Artist Talk

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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