

Teen Museum Studies presents

Summer Brooks

The New Garden Variety



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

The New Garden Variety explores Blackness and perceptions of beauty. Through her exhibition, Summer Brooks creates an open and inviting space for diverse audiences to encounter the beauty of Blackness. Brooks says, “Each piece is sensual and tactile—almost radiating an attractive aura.” She strives through her work to connect different cultures and to celebrate diversity in the human form. She believes that Black is beautiful, and should be presented as a spectrum rather than as a strictly constrained notion of beauty. Brooks wields unconventional materials like spray foam, terra cotta clay, and india ink to reimagine traditional notions of beauty. By incorporating the royal colors purple and gold, Brooks signifies the divinity in difference. Teen Museum Studies participants selected

Brooks after a competitive application review process. Brooks was chosen because her work challenges harmful narratives of beauty standards and provides the opportunity to engage in deeper dialogue around how we see one another. Teen Museum Studies worked directly with Brooks to organize and implement the exhibition as part of the six-week summer program.



Audio Tour

Visit camstl.org/audio on a mobile device to hear an interview with the artist and Teen Museum Studies students.

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.

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.

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

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, 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.

Related Program

Artist Talk: Summer Brooks

Saturday, September 25, noon



Summer Brooks, *Pomade*, 2021. Spray foam, terracotta, india ink, gold leaf, 18 × 17 × 4 inches. Courtesy the artist.



**Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis**
3750 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.535.4660

Connect with CAM

Visit camstl.org
Facebook [contemporaryartmuseumstl](https://www.facebook.com/contemporaryartmuseumstl)
Twitter [@ContemporarySTL](https://twitter.com/ContemporarySTL)
Instagram [camstl](https://www.instagram.com/camstl)