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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis to Receive \$45,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts



Hajra Waheed, *Hum*, 2020. Multi-channel sound installation. Installation view, Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany (July 11–September 6, 2020). Courtesy the artist. Photo: Diana Pfammatter.

May 20, 2022 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) has been approved for a \$45,000 Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts to support an exhibition featuring new and existing works by Montréal-based artist Hajra Waheed (b. 1980). The exhibition will premiere at CAM September 8, 2023–February 12, 2024.

Marking the first major solo exhibition of Waheed's work in the United States, the presentation will include video, sound installation, drawing, and sculpture to explore themes of unity across borders. CAM's project is among 1,125 projects across the US totaling more than \$26.6 million that were selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2022 funding. This is the largest Grants for Arts Projects award made by the NEA to CAM in the organization's history.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts and cultural organizations throughout the nation with these grants, including Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, providing opportunities for all of us to live artful lives," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario

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Jackson, Ph.D. “The arts contribute to our individual well-being, the well-being of our communities, and to our local economies. The arts are also crucial to helping us make sense of our circumstances from different perspectives as we emerge from the pandemic and plan for a shared new normal informed by our examined experience.”

“With the NEA’s support, CAM is honored to provide a platform for Waheed’s bold, experimental vision and her first major solo presentation in the United States. This generous funding will enable her to create a new body of work and connect with St. Louis audiences for the very first time, in a space uniquely designed for engagement and discovery,” said CAM’s Executive Director, Lisa Melandri.

More About the Exhibition

Waheed’s exhibition will center around [Hum](#), the artist’s immersive, 16-channel sound installation originally commissioned for the Lahore Biennale 02 and staged for Portikus in Frankfurt in 2020. Waheed will create a new body of work that will expand and continue her interest in ideas of unity across borders, as well as present a diverse array of recent work—sound, installation, painting, works on paper, and poetry.

Though Waheed’s works can be found in significant permanent collections and have been the subject of several international project-sized presentations over the past 12 years, no definitive consideration of her work has yet been organized in the United States. Waheed’s exhibition at CAM will be her most ambitious to date in terms of scale, materiality, medium, and the complexity of issues it addresses. The exhibition is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi.

For more information on other projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis creates meaningful engagement with the most relevant and innovative art being made today. Founded by civic and cultural leaders in 1980, the Museum transformed from a small gallery into an internationally recognized arts institution, now permanently housed in a flexible, open, and inviting building designed by renowned American architect Brad Cloepfil. CAM’s distinct architecture reflects the organization’s values and supports a dynamic range of exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and community collaborations. The only museum in the region solely dedicated to contemporary art, CAM is one of the preeminent non-collecting institutions of its kind in the United States. We are a site for discovery, a welcoming space, free and open to all. For more information, visit [camstl.org](https://www.camstl.org).

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