

Press contact: Karol Stewart  
314.446.7489  
kstewart@camstl.org



Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

3750 Washington Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314.535.4660 camstl.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***We didn't ask permission, we just did it...*, Guest Curated by Manuela Paz and Christopher Rivera of Embajada, Opens at CAM September 9, 2022**



Ignacio González Lang, *Open Mic*. Fortaleza #302, 2000. Featured in M&M proyectos' PR '00 *Paréntesis en la Ciudad*, Artistic Director Michy Marxuach, October 9–14, 2000, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Courtesy the artist and Michy Marxuach.

**June 8, 2022 (St. Louis, MO)**—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents *We didn't ask permission, we just did it...*, an exhibition guest curated by Embajada co-founders Christopher Rivera and Manuela Paz in collaboration with CAM Chief Curator Wassan Al-Khudhairi and Assistant Curator Misa Jeffereis. On view at CAM from September 9, 2022 through February 12, 2023, the show spotlights three key exhibitions that had a hand in shaping many artist practices both in Puerto Rico and internationally.

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10–5 Thu  
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CAM is free. Visit often!



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*We didn't ask permission, we just did it...* revisits a series of three seminal exhibitions in Puerto Rico, from 2000 to 2016, that adopted an independent spirit of art making: M&M Proyectos' PR invitationals, organized by Michy Marxuach; the *Gran Tropical Bienals*, founded by Pablo León de la Barra; and *Cave-In* initiated by Mike Egan. The original projects, which took the form of idiosyncratic biennials, happenings, or installations by artists working in an array of unconventional mediums and international in scope, in part spurred the self-reliant gallery community flourishing in San Juan, Puerto Rico today. *We didn't ask permission, we just did it...* conveys the sense of ambition, collective action, and self-sufficiency of experimental artist communities despite infrastructural limitations.

Exhibiting artists include (list in formation): Allora & Calzadilla, Alterazioni Video, Lucas Blalock, Stefan Bruggeman, Borden Cappalino, Carolina Caycedo, Lourdes Correa Carlo, Radamés "Juni" Figueroa, Jorge González Santos, Vanessa Hernandez, Federico Herrero, Alana Iturralde, Jessica Kaire, Ajay Kurian, Ignacio González Lang, Pablo León de la Barra, Jose Lerma, Daniel Lind Ramos, Matilsha Marxuach, Lionel Maunz, Andy Meerow, Jesús "Bubu" Negrón, Damián Ortega, Ernesto Pujol, Jorge Rivera, Dhara Rivera, Monica Rodriguez, Joel "Yoyo" Rodriguez, Chemi Rosado-Seijo, Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, Edra Soto, and Andra Ursuta.

*We didn't ask permission, we just did it...* is generously supported by the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation and Whitaker Foundation.

WHITAKER FOUNDATION

### **About Embajada**

Founded in 2015, and named after the Spanish word for embassy, Embajada is a gallery based in San Juan, Puerto Rico which serves as a bridge connecting artists on the island with the rest of the world, fostering connections to the contemporary art world. For more information, visit [embajadada.com](http://embajadada.com).

### **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](http://camstl.org).

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