

Press contact: Samantha Lyons  
314.492.2988  
[slyons@camstl.org](mailto:slyons@camstl.org)



Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

3750 Washington Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314.535.4660 [camstl.org](http://camstl.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***New Perspectives* celebrates the return of onsite collaboration with student artist exhibition, opening September 9**



*Skull Painting* created by students participating in *New Art in the Neighborhood* with Resident Teaching Artist Ryan McCartney.

**August 16, 2022 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents a new exhibition of works made by middle school artists in the [LEAP Middle School Initiative](#) and high school artists in the [New Art in the Neighborhood](#) (NAN) program. On view in CAM's Education Galleries between September 9, 2022 and February 12, 2023, *LEAP Middle School Initiative and New Art in the Neighborhood: New Perspectives* is the result of teens being able to gather onsite at CAM again in the 2021–22 academic year.

Resident Teaching Artists Lillian Gardner and Simiya Sudduth each worked with LEAP participants over a ten-week period to explore approaches to contemporary art making. In the fall, Gardner provided playful forms of self-expression through artist trading cards and surrealist portraits that were combined into a collaborative group artwork. In the spring, Sudduth helped LEAP artists expand upon narrative and storytelling skills to create their own zines, learning methods of paper folding, publication formatting, and design.

2021–22 LEAP artists include: Amiyah Arend, Angela Clark, Kingston Collins, Fern Kanak, Mabel Kanak, Bennett Klosterman, Julia Long, Olive Losse, Eleanor Myers, Caris Ong, Louise Orbin, Esmé Schuman, Natalie Sears, Saoirse Skiljan, Mars Vance, and Jovi Vaughn.

Facebook  
[contemporaryartmuseumstl](https://www.facebook.com/contemporaryartmuseumstl)

Twitter  
[ContemporarySTL](https://twitter.com/ContemporarySTL)

Instagram  
[camstl](https://www.instagram.com/camstl)

Hours  
10–5 Thu  
10–8 Fri  
10–5 Sat & Sun  
CAM is free. Visit often!



Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

For high school artists participating in NAN, being able to gather together again in person became a touchstone for their work. In the fall, artists explored how visual and material culture defines, shapes, enhances, inhibits, and empowers people's lives. Jason Vasser-Elong began the program with an examination of text by exploring automatic writing, appropriation, and ekphrasis (the response to a visual work of art with words). Ryan McCartney then channeled NAN artists towards a collaborative project, which took the form of a large-scale painting. In the spring, Misato Pang explored how observation and perception inform abstraction, guiding artists through exercises such as still life drawing and sculpture, life drawing, and chance-based compositions.

2021–22 NAN artists include: Xavia Bell, Catalina Enz, RJ Hearon, Isabelle "Izzi" Jackson-Cameron, Atticus Jones, Finn Kanak, Ivy Kanak, Audrey LaBeaume, Annie Li, Montana Limper, Zachary Milner, Munta Mohammad-Akhtar, Cozette Mothershead, Will Seemiller, Katherine Welch, and Frankie Williams.

*LEAP Middle School Initiative and New Art in the Neighborhood: New Perspectives* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Brandon Barr, Teen and Adult Programs Manager.

LEAP Middle School Initiative is generously supported by The Strive Fund; The Dana Brown Charitable Trust, US Bank, Trustee; Anonymous; Crawford Taylor Foundation; and the Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation.

New Art in the Neighborhood is generously supported by Bayer Fund; Employees Community Fund of Boeing; The Dana Brown Charitable Trust; US Bank, Trustee; Anonymous; Crawford Taylor Foundation; and the Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation.



### **Related Events**

#### **Friday, September 9**

Patron and Press Preview 10:00–11:30 am

Member Preview 5:00–6:00 pm

Public Opening 6:00–9:00 pm

*For press access on September 9, RSVP to Samantha Lyons at [slyons@camstl.org](mailto:slyons@camstl.org). Brandon Barr, CAM's Teen and Adult Programs Manager, will be available at the Patron/Press Preview for interviews. To schedule a Zoom or phone interview with participating Resident Teaching Artists throughout the fall/winter exhibition season, please contact [slyons@camstl.org](mailto:slyons@camstl.org).*



Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

### **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).

###