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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dominic Chambers' new exhibition celebrates public sites of imagination and creativity in his hometown of St. Louis



Dominic Chambers, *Birthplace (Red Classroom)*, 2023. Oil on linen, 86 x 121 inches. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, Seoul, and London. Photo courtesy Daniel Kukla.

May 10, 2023 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) announces a major exhibition of new works by Dominic Chambers, the first in the artist's hometown of St. Louis. The exhibition brings together a series of new large-scale paintings and sculpture by the artist, a rising star in the art world who has recently been featured on *Forbes* magazine's "30 Under 30" list as one of the most promising artists of his generation. As part of the exhibition, CAM will also produce the first major exhibition catalog of Chambers' work. ***Dominic Chambers: Birthplace* will be on view at CAM from September 8, 2023–February 11, 2024.**

Chambers is known for his vibrant, evocative paintings that depict Black subjects in moments of contemplation and leisure. Consistent throughout his oeuvre is the rich interior lives of his subjects. At times restful and meditative, and other times scholarly and curious, his subjects are almost always spirited away by the magic of reading and respite. In his luminous and deeply absorbing paintings, Chambers has explored contemporary concerns around race, personal and imagined narratives, and the complexity of one's

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interior life. As an artist and writer, Chambers often draws inspiration from critical voices within the Black literary canon—particularly the writings of W. E. B. Du Bois, Octavia Butler, and Zora Neale Hurston. These influences take visual form in Chambers' surreal landscapes and psychologically arresting portraits that present meditations on stillness and a radical interiority for his figures.

In *Birthplace*, Chambers recalls the spaces which facilitated his inner awakening as an artist and nurtured his imagination. Classrooms, playgrounds, libraries, and basketball courts are all represented within the exhibition, and each holds significant meaning to the artist's origin story. The works are invitations to reflect upon and celebrate environments essential to our social development and collective imagination.

An exhibition publication will accompany *Dominic Chambers: Birthplace*, featuring guest essays and an interview with Chambers and curator and scholar Tiffany E. Barber, Assistant Professor of African American Art at the University of California-Los Angeles. Designed by Marquand Books and distributed by D.A.P., the catalog will be published by CAM and released in November 2023.

An artist talk will take place during the fall exhibition season at CAM. Visit camstl.org for program updates.

This exhibition is generously supported in part by George Wells, Anonymous, and the Whitaker Foundation. The exhibition publication is underwritten by the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection. Special thanks to Lehmann Maupin.

WHITAKER FOUNDATION

Dominic Chambers: Birthplace is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, former Ferring Foundation Chief Curator.



Dominic Chambers (b. 1993, St. Louis, MO; lives and works in New Haven, CT) received his BFA from Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Milwaukee, WI in 2016, and his MFA from Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT in 2019. Solo exhibitions of his work have been organized at Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art, Reston, VA (2022); Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY (2022); the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh, PA (2020); Luce Gallery, Turin, Italy (2020); The Millitzer Studio and Gallery, St. Louis, MO (2017); and the Residential Gallery, Des Moines, IA (2017). Chambers' work is in a number of private and public collections, including the Centre

Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin.
Photo courtesy Daniel Kukla.



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Pompidou, Paris, France (promised gift); Green Family Foundation, Dallas, TX; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL; Long Museum, Shanghai, China; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA (promised gift); Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL; and Xiao Museum of Contemporary Art, Rizhao, China. Chambers is the recipient of the Robert Reed Drawing Scholarship, Yale University (2018); Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship, Yale Norfolk School of Art (2015); and the Varsity Art XVIII Award, St. Louis Community College – Florissant Valley, St. Louis, MO (2014). He has completed residencies at the New York Studio Residency Program, Brooklyn, NY (2015), and the Yale Norfolk School of Art, Norfolk Historic District, CT (2015).

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.

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