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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-winning artist Hajra Waheed opens first US solo exhibition at Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis this fall



Hajra Waheed, *Hum*, 2020. Multi-channel sound installation with custom speaker casings, 36 minutes, 17 seconds. Installation view, Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany (July 11–September 6, 2020). Courtesy the artist. Photo courtesy Diana Pfammatter.

May 10, 2023 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) announces a major solo exhibition of new and existing works by artist Hajra Waheed. Marking the first solo exhibition of Waheed's work in the United States, the presentation will include video, sound installation, painting, and works on paper including newly commissioned works. The exhibition offers the first definitive consideration of the artist's practice in the United States and will be accompanied by a major exhibition catalog published by the Museum. ***Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition will be on view at CAM from September 8, 2023–February 11, 2024.***

Waheed's multidisciplinary practice explores the legacies of colonial and state violence with a uniquely poetic approach and engagement with the world. Weaving between the intimate and infinite constellations of the communities of which she is a part, her works in the exhibition—while rooted in the historical—imagine new possibilities towards a radically collective future. The artist's work has been shown internationally and has received major recognition; recently, Waheed received the 2022 Outstanding

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Achievement Award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation in Ottawa, Canada and the 2023 Sharjah Biennial 15 Prize in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Waheed's exhibition will include *Hum* (2020), the artist's immersive, 16-channel musical composition and sound installation. Originally commissioned for *Lahore Biennale 02* and staged for Portikus in Frankfurt in 2020, the work will travel to CAM this fall for its US debut and become a central work in the exhibition. *Hum*, whose title translates to "We" in Urdu, reflects on international solidarity movements that emerged in the second half of the 20th century through processes of decolonization in the Global South. The composition features eight hummed songs of resistance from South, Central, West Asia, and Africa. The exhibition will also include a new series of works on paper, etchings, and paintings commissioned for this exhibition alongside recent works including video and sculpture.

Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition will be accompanied by a major exhibition publication featuring a conversation between Wassan Al-Khudhairi and the artist as well as guest essays from art historian, professor, and founder/director of the Centre for Creative Ecologies T.J. Demos; writer, translator, and educator Rayya Badran; and writer, deputy editor, and deputy publisher for *ArtAsiaPacific*, H.G. Masters. Designed by Marquand Books and distributed by DAP, the catalog will be published by CAM and released in November 2023. The exhibition and publication received major funding in the form of a \$75,000 Spring 2022 Grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and a \$45,000 Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

An artist talk will take place opening weekend at CAM. Visit camstl.org for program updates.

Major support for *Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition* is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. This exhibition is generously supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Whitaker Foundation. *Hum* was made possible with the generous support of the Lahore Biennial Foundation and Portikus, Frankfurt.



The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts



Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, former Ferring Foundation Chief Curator, with Misa Jeffereis, Associate Curator.



Hajra Waheed (b. 1980, currently lives and works in Montréal) is a multidisciplinary artist whose recent international exhibitions include: *O Quilombismo*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2023); *Sharjah Biennial 15*, UAE (2023); *State of Concept*, Athens (2023); *Relations: Diaspora and Painting*, PHI Foundation, Montréal (2021); *Hum*, Portikus, Frankfurt (2020); *Globale Resistance*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2020); *Lahore Biennial 02*, Pakistan (2020); *Pushing Paper: Contemporary Drawing*



from 1970 to Now, British Museum, London (2019); *Hold Everything Dear*, The Power Plant, Toronto (2019); *57th Venice Biennale, VIVA ARTE VIVA*, Venice (2017); *11th Gwangju Biennale*, South Korea (2016); *The Cyphers*, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (2016); *Still Against the Sky*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2015); *La Biennale de Montréal*, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Quebec (2014); *Lines of Control*, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY (2012); and *(In) The First Circle*, Antoni Tàpies Foundation, Barcelona (2012). She is the recipient of the Sharjah Biennial 15 Prize (2023), the Hnatyshyn Foundation Award (2022), the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award (2014) for outstanding achievement as a mid-career artist, and a finalist for the Sobey Art Award (2016). *Photo courtesy Jen MacIntyre.*

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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