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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Justin Favela transforms Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis' Project Wall with monumental cut paper installation in Fall 2023



Justin Favela, *Valley of Oaxaca, after José María Velasco*, 2018. Paper and glue on board, 42 x 63 1/4 inches. Courtesy the artist. Photo courtesy The Berman Museum of Art.

May 10, 2023 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) announces a new solo exhibition of works by Las Vegas-based artist Justin Favela. Known for his vivid large-scale murals and sculptures, Favela will create a new site-specific installation. The installation will feature the artist's bold, colorful designs and signature piñata paper technique on the Museum's 60-foot Project Wall. The exhibition will also include a new video work as part of CAM's outdoor Street Views projection, on view from dusk to midnight every night. **Justin Favela will be on view at CAM from September 8, 2023–February 11, 2024.**

Favela gained significant attention in the art world after receiving the 2021 Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship and his inclusion in El Museo del Barrio's *ESTAMOS BIEN – LA TRIENAL 20/21*. His creative practice explores notions of authenticity, place, and identity through the use of familiar materials. Drawing inspiration from traditional Mexican or Latin

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American craft, specifically *cartonería*—or piñata making—Favela's technique uses paper and glue to create dynamic and monumental forms. His piñata-like sculptures and installations become vibrant symbols of Latinx joy and visibility. Informed by his own Mexican-Guatemalan upbringing, Favela's colorful and often humorous works aim to critique cultural stereotypes and create public dialogue around what it means to be Latinx in the US.

As part of his socially-engaged practice, Favela activates his artwork by hosting Family Fiestas at museums and in unexpected locations. These public performances of the artist's own family celebrations are designed to attract new museum audiences and draw attention to institutional inclusion efforts. Since 2014, he has staged Family Fiestas at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas; Michael Heizer's earthwork *Double Negative* in Moapa Valley, Nevada; Denver Art Museum; and Des Moines Art Center, among others. Favela and his family will present a Family Fiesta at CAM during the fall exhibition season, inviting hundreds of guests to participate in traditional Mexican and Guatemalan games and activities. To stay updated on this event and additional exhibition programs, visit CAM's [website](#).

This exhibition is generously supported in part by the Whitaker Foundation.

WHITAKER FOUNDATION

Justin Favela is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Misa Jeffereis, Associate Curator.



Photo courtesy Mikayla Whitmore.

Justin Favela (b. 1986, Las Vegas, NV; lives and works in Las Vegas, NV) is known for large-scale installations and sculptures that manifest his interactions with American pop culture and the Latinx experience. He has exhibited his work both internationally and across the US. His installations have been commissioned by museums including the Denver Art Museum in Colorado, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Arkansas, and El Museo del Barrio in New York. He is the recipient of the 2021 Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship. He holds a BFA in Fine Art from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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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