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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAM's 2023 Dada Ball & Bash raises \$400,000 to support exhibitions and education programs



Dada Ball & Bash co-chairs Shereen and Michael Fischer (left and right) with CAM Executive Director Lisa Melandri (center).

May 25, 2023 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) held its biannual Dada Ball & Bash at The Hawthorn on Saturday, May 13. As the principal fundraiser of the year, the Ball & Bash raises nearly fifteen percent of the Museum's operating budget in support of CAM's next-level exhibitions and inspiring education programs. **The event generated \$400,000 through ticket sales, the Fund the Need live auction, and sponsorship revenues.** Dada Ball guests raised their paddles during the Fund the Need auction to ensure the continued support of such programs as New Art in the Neighborhood and the Museum's ArtReach partnerships with local high school students and Sumner and Vashon High School. **Over the course of twenty minutes, more than \$170,000 was raised in support of artists, exhibitions, community initiatives, and youth arts education, making it the most successful Fund the Need auction in CAM's history.**

With an invitation to "live out your future fantasy," the 2023 Dada Ball & Bash brought the digital discothèque to the heart of St. Louis. The fundraiser's theme was inspired by *Jacoby Satterwhite: Spirits Roaming on the Earth*—an exhibition with dream-like virtual worlds that made an imaginative and irreverent match for this year's cyber-themed event. Many guests embraced the theme by arriving in futuristic costumes, while enjoying dining and dancing at The Hawthorn in the Locust District of Downtown West. Dada Ball co-chairs Shereen and Michael Fischer welcomed guests and spoke about the future-forward theme as intertwined with "CAM's future in our community." During the Fund the Need auction, emcee Rene Knott—morning anchor for "Today in St. Louis" on KSDK—encouraged Dada guests to help maintain CAM's dynamic range of exhibitions, public programs, educational activities, and community initiatives.

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Following the Ball many of the guests joined the revelers at the Dada Bash after-party. Entertainment included music by Umami and a performance by the legendary Omari Wiles, Founding Father of the House of NiNa Oricci, as well as local performers Dezzie aka Zizi, Fame Chanel, Jariya Ebony, Supaman Chanel, and vocals by Maven Logik Lee.

“CAM’s future became a reality at the Dada Ball and Bash,” said Lisa Melandri, CAM Executive Director, “and it’s all because of our incredible supporters. The contributions we received show the immense support from our community and the support for all that CAM is and all that CAM does. They help make CAM a place that continues to be free and open to all. Thank you to everyone who made the night so much fun and such a fabulous success.”

In keeping with the Future Fantasy theme of the celebration, our sponsors included: **Tron Sponsors:** Clayco, Alexis Cossé and Erik Karanik; **Blade Runner Sponsors:** Edward Jones, Ferring Family Foundation, Shereen and Michael Fischer, Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg, Penny Pennington and Mike Fidler; **Ready Player One Sponsors:** Thompson Street Capital Partners, Jackie Yoon; **The Fifth Element Sponsors:** JiaMin and Michael Dierberg, First Bank, HOK, Moneta, PNC, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, Jeanne and Rex Siquefield, Mary Ann and Andrew Srenco, Kate and Howard Stephens, Stifel, Pat Whitaker and Dick Miles, Sam Weil, Ted Wight & Dielmann Sotheby’s International Realty. **Special thanks** to Breakthru Beverage Missouri, Dierberg Estate Vineyard, Evtiv, New Honor Society, and Urban Chestnut Brewing Company.

High resolution images may be found [here](#).
Photos courtesy Carmody Creative Photography and Wil Driscoll Photography.

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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