

Press contact: Samantha Lyons
314.492.2988
slyons@camstl.org



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

3750 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.535.4660 camstl.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis appoints Dean Daderko as new Ferring Foundation Chief Curator



Photo courtesy A.L. Steiner

May 9, 2023 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dean Daderko (they/them) as the Museum's new Ferring Foundation Chief Curator. In this role, they will lead CAM's dynamic exhibition program and advance fundraising and cultivation efforts in support of the museum's strategic goals. Daderko becomes the newest member of the Museum's senior leadership team when they begin their tenure at CAM in summer 2023, concluding a nationwide search.

"I am delighted and honored to welcome Dean Daderko as the new Ferring Foundation Chief Curator," said Lisa Melandri, Executive Director. "Dean brings an extraordinary depth of experience, knowledge, and empathy to this position. We're excited to have

such a dedicated and artist-centric leader on our team who is deeply committed to amplifying the voices of emerging and renowned creatives in the contemporary art world. We are fortunate to have Dean join CAM and the St. Louis community."

Daderko previously served as Curator at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston from 2010–2020, where they organized exhibitions and produced publications with Haegue Yang, Joan Jonas and Gina Pane, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Nicolas Moufarrege, Paul Ramírez Jonas, Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz, and Wu Tsang and Fred Moten, among others. Their exhibitions traveled to the Henry Art Gallery, ICA/Boston, and Queens Museum. Daderko's most recent project—*Ecstatic Land*—co-curated with Daisy Nam for Ballroom Marfa, brought together an intergenerational group of artists whose works explore the intersecting vitalities of land and self. It received major support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Henry Moore Foundation.

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Hours
10–5 Wed
10–5 Thu
10–8 Fri
10–5 Sat & Sun

CAM is free. Visit often!

“I am honored and pleased to join the team at CAM. I greatly admire the work of my predecessor Wassan Al-Khudhairi and look forward to working with Associate Curator Misa Jeffereis and CAM’s leadership and staff,” said Daderko. “My practice is deeply informed by ongoing conversations with artists, and I’m eager to get to know local communities while building artistic dialogues locally, nationally, and internationally. Since I’ve regularly commissioned new artworks, it’s exciting to think about developing projects that will engage with St. Louis and its unique socio-cultural ecosystems.”

Daderko has worked with Visual AIDS, Art in General, Artists’ Space, and The Kitchen in New York, and for the Contemporary Art Center in Vilnius, Lithuania. Their writing appears in publications by the Americas’ Society, El Museo del Barrio, Les presses du réel, *Mousse*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, and the Studio Museum in Harlem. They are the recipient of Curatorial Research Fellowships from *Étant données: The French-American Fund for Contemporary Art* in 2008 and 2020.

Dean Daderko begins their position at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis on June 19, 2023.

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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