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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LEAP Middle School Initiative highlights collages, pizza paintings, and more in new exhibition by local teens**



LEAP students visit artist Katherine Bernhardt's studio for pizza-based artmaking. Photo courtesy CAM staff.

**August 1, 2023 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis presents a new exhibition of works made by middle school artists in the [LEAP Middle School Initiative](#) program. *LEAP Middle School Initiative: Collage, Portraits, and Pizzas* showcases a diverse and playful selection of art created by teen artists during the 2022–2023 academic year. **The exhibition is on view in CAM's Education Galleries between September 8, 2023 and February 11, 2024.**

LEAP is an after-school program for middle school-aged artists who are interested in exploring contemporary art practices and mediums. Resident Teaching Artists Jorge Rios and Jen Everett each worked with LEAP participants over a ten-week period to explore creative approaches to art making. In the fall, Rios worked with students to develop basic skills in two-dimensional representation through the use of drawing and water-based painting. These young artists also learned how to describe their work using foundational art history terminology. Capping off the semester, students had the opportunity to visit Katherine Bernhardt's studio, where they made their own playful "pizza paintings." Spring

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

RTA Jen Everett used the 2022 Great Rivers Biennial exhibition as a conceptual starting point to help LEAP participants explore how different media can be used to convey complex messages and themes.

2022–23 LEAP artists include: Rosalie Allen, Amiyah Arend, Kingston Collins, Mackenzie Crump, Lily Deaton, Ruthy Fosdick, Norah Goetz, Ehron Gottfredsen, Fern Kanak, Mabel Kanak, Salem Lambert, Eddie Perez, and Benjamin Yates.

LEAP Middle School Initiative is generously supported in part by The Strive Fund; Anonymous; Crawford Taylor Foundation; Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation; Reinsurance Group of America, Inc. (RGA); and Terry D. Weiss, MD, Youth Education Endowment Fund.



*LEAP Middle School Initiative: Collage, Portraits, and Pizzas* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Brandon Barr, Teen and Adult Programs Manager.

### **Related Events**

#### **Friday, September 8**

Patron and Press Preview 10:00–11:30 am

Member Preview 6:00–7:00 pm

Public Opening 7:00–9:00 pm

For press access on September 8, RSVP to Samantha Lyons at [slyons@camstl.org](mailto:slyons@camstl.org). Brandon Barr, CAM's Teen and Adult Programs Manager, will be available at the Patron/Press Preview for interviews. To schedule a Zoom or phone interview with participating Resident Teaching Artists throughout the fall/winter exhibition season, please contact [slyons@camstl.org](mailto:slyons@camstl.org).

#### **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](http://camstl.org).

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