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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Art in the Neighborhood exhibition at CAM features DIY holograms, sand paintings, and creative reflections on identity



New Art in the Neighborhood participant Ivy Kanak's painting *Table Man*, made with acrylic and sand. Photo courtesy CAM staff.

August 1, 2023 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis presents a new exhibition of works made by high school artists in the [New Art in the Neighborhood](#) (NAN) program. *New Art in the Neighborhood: How to Change Yourself World* highlights new work 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.**

New Art in the Neighborhood (NAN) is a high school-level art course that combines project-based learning with open studio exploration. The program introduces new art practices to creative teens while also responding to each student's individual interests and curiosities.

The exhibition includes artwork made by students during the 2022–2023 academic year with Resident Teaching Artists (RTA) Lillian Gardner and Mee Jey. While working with students on creative prompts, Gardner asked the question: what do you want to change in the world? Using a variety of materials, including wood, collage, sand, and fabric, students

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engaged with meaningful issues and found inspiration in themes such as identity, environment, and legacy. They also had the opportunity to participate in workshops with 2022 *Great Rivers Biennial* artists Yvonne Osei and Jon Young. Similarly, Mee Jey asked students to be deeply reflective in order to find their strengths. Using fabric and found items, the students created artworks that were just as much about the woven intricacies of human identity as they were about the materials.

Inspired by the work in Jacolby Satterwhite's exhibition, *Spirits Roaming on the Earth*, CAM Teen and Adult Programs Manager Brandon Barr worked with students to create DIY holograms. Using common materials—a wooden box, CD case, and a cell phone—students followed techniques taught by RTA Mee Jey to create the illusion of objects and figures moving within a real miniature diorama. This project offered students new ways to explore ideas surrounding identity and personal utopias through digital and sculptural media.

2022–23 NAN artists include: Gray Baker, Lev Burmeister, Jay Elvert, Will Fendler, Hank Fosdick, Sofia Gleissner, Jesse Heater, Josie Hoskins, Finn Kanak, Ivy Kanak, Audrey LaBeaume, Summer Lewis, Cayan Moore, Cozette Mothershead, Sanai Todd, Tariq Upchurch-Bey, Mars Vance, Jovi Vaughn, Kevin Werts, Frankie Williams, Jacob Williams, and Yaa Williams.

New Art in the Neighborhood is generously supported in part by Anonymous; Crawford Taylor Foundation; Employees Community Fund of Boeing; Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation; Reinsurance Group of America, Inc. (RGA); and Terry D. Weiss, MD, Youth Education Endowment Fund.

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New Art in the Neighborhood: How to Change Yourself World 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. 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.



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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