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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ruth Reese explores issues of transformation and growth in Teen Museum Studies exhibition *Metamorphosis*, opening September 8**



**August 1, 2023 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis presents *Ruth Reese: Metamorphosis*, an exhibition presented by Teen Museum Studies. For the 2023 Teen Museum Studies program, high school participants were guided through a competitive application review process and chose St. Louis-based artist Ruth Reese. Reese is a sculptor with over 20 years of experience teaching and creating art. She uses clay and repurposed materials to create imaginative, hand-made pieces that further her connection with the earth. ***Ruth Reese: Metamorphosis* will be on view in the Education Galleries at CAM from September 8, 2023 through February 11, 2024.**

Courtesy Ruth Reese. Photo courtesy CAM staff.

Through her work, Reese explores the idea of metamorphosis by combining humans, animals, and plants into single forms. Reese's sculptures take inspiration from Greco-Roman mythology and personal experiences, which she uses to express the importance of transformation and how one must view change as integral to life. The works in this exhibition are inspired by Greek deities such as Nyx, Gaia, and Daphne, whose stories of hardship, triumph, and transformation reflect and embody the process of metamorphosis.



**Ruth Reese** is a St. Louis-based artist, sculptor, and ceramicist. She holds a BA in English from Loyola University and an MFA from Washington University. In her work, Reese uses the richness of porcelain, black stoneware, and red earthenware to explore themes of mythology, death, grace, and the ever-changing nature of identity. Exhibiting nationally, her work has been a part of Visions in Clay, Red Heat, and NCECA. Her work has been shown at the Evansville Museum in Evansville, Indiana; Racine Art Museum in Racine,

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Wisconsin; and the San Angelo Museum of Fine Art in San Angelo, Texas. She completed her most recent Artist in Residence program at Craft Alliance in St. Louis, where she also founded REESE Gallery in 2014. Her artistic endeavors were acknowledged with the Regional Arts Commission Artists Fellowship Grant in 2016. Currently, she teaches art at the Montessori Adolescent Program in St. Louis.

**Teen Museum Studies** is a summer intensive internship that engages high school students in direct exposure to museum careers, develops collaboration and critical thinking skills, and offers the chance to select and work with a St. Louis-based artist to organize an exhibition that premieres at CAM in September. This immersive program provides avenues for artistic engagement beyond studio practice and hands-on experience working with artists, museum staff, and creative peers.

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



*Ruth Reese: Metamorphosis* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Caelen Brown, Corinne Farrill, Anthony Holmes, Maline Jackson-Austell, Fern Kanak, Finn Kanak, Ivy Kanak, Salem Lambert, Cozette Mothershead, Ava Swan, Mars Vance, Frankie Williams, and Jacob Williams, with support from 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

#### **Saturday, October 21**

Artist Talk 3:00–4:00 pm

For press access on September 8, RSVP to Samantha Lyons at [slyons@camstl.org](mailto:slyons@camstl.org). Ruth Reese and 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 the artist 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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