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Contemporary Art
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAM and Gateway Foundation announce the winners of the 2024 Great Rivers Biennial Award

Great Rivers Biennial

August 28, 2023 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) and the Gateway Foundation announce the winners of the 2024 Great Rivers Biennial Arts Award Program: **Saj Issa**, **Basil Kincaid**, and **Ronald Young**. Their ambitious project proposals involve ceramics, textiles, and sculptural assemblage. The award winners were chosen by a distinguished panel of jurors who visited the studios of ten semifinalist artists chosen from a pool of 96 applicants. The Great Rivers Biennial (GRB)—a collaborative initiative between CAM and the

Gateway Foundation—recognizes and fosters artistic talent in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area. Generously funded by the Gateway Foundation since its inauguration in 2004, awardees receive \$20,000 in unrestricted funding and a major exhibition at CAM that will be on view from **September 6, 2024–February 9, 2025**.

Ten semi-finalists received in-person studio visits over a two-day period with three distinguished jurors: **Rita Gonzalez**, Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Department Head of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art; **Jamillah James**, Manilow Senior Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and **Caroline Kent**, a Chicago-based artist and Assistant Professor of Painting at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University. Following deliberations, the jurors unanimously agreed on this cohort of awardees.

CAM's Ferring Foundation Chief Curator Dean Daderko and Associate Curator Misa Jeffereis will act as organizing curators for the Biennial, with assistance from Grace Early, Exhibitions Assistant. They will work with the artists toward the successful realization of their exhibitions. The jurors will return to St. Louis to celebrate the opening of these exhibitions and to participate in a public panel discussion with the awardees on September 7, 2024.

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About the Great Rivers Biennial 2024 Award Winners



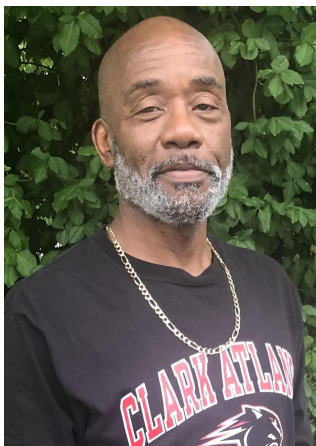
Saj Issa (b. 1994, St. Louis, MO) received a BFA from Webster University, St. Louis, and an MFA at the University of California, Los Angeles. Growing up between St. Louis and Palestine, her practice is a representation of displacement, identity, social issues, consumerism, and drawing parallels between the East and West. Issa provokes, informs, and entertains viewers with her work, which has been exhibited at *Felix Art Fair* in Los Angeles, *Materials Fair* in Mexico City, and the exhibition *Many* at the Craft Contemporary Museum, Los Angeles. Issa is a recipient of the 2022 NCECA Graduate Student Fellowship, and has been selected to appear in

New American Paintings, No. 159 & 165 MFA Annual Issue. She has been an artist-in-residence at Craft Alliance Center of Art and Design in St. Louis and Belger Crane Yard Studio in Kansas City. *Photo courtesy the artist.*



Basil Kincaid (b. 1986, St. Louis, MO) is an artist who honors and evolves traditional practices through quilting, collaging, photography, installation, and performance. Kincaid's materials are vested with emotional and memorial content, and function as spiritual technology, advancing wisdoms born from Kincaid's greatest values: family, imagination, rest, and experience. Kincaid studied drawing and painting at Colorado College, graduating in 2010, and has

exhibited works with Hauser & Wirth, Mindy Solomon Gallery, Kravets Wehby Gallery, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Carl Kostyál, and others. Kincaid received a St. Louis Regional Arts Commission Fellowship (2020), became a United States Artist Fellow (2021), and joined the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum (2021). Recent exhibitions include new quilt works in *The New Bend* at Hauser & Wirth's New York and Los Angeles locations, *New African Portraiture* at the Kunsthalle Krems in Austria, and a ceremonial installation at Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis. Kincaid exhibited *Dancing the Wind Walk*, a semi-permanent fabric monument during Frieze Los Angeles 2023, with support from the Art Production Fund. *Photo courtesy Basil Kincaid Studio.*



Ronald Young (b. 1956, St. Louis, MO) creates mixed-media assemblages from objects he finds in his immediate environment: aged doors, old tools, wood molding trim, rusty chains, ropes, bricks, and nails are among the objects he repurposes at his discretion. His socially-conscious artworks celebrate the resourcefulness and resilience of African Americans. A retired art teacher with over 33 years of experience, Young earned his MFA from the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Art at Washington University in St. Louis,



where he was the recipient of a Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship. He also received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Japan in 2007. Young's works are in public and private collections across the US, including the St. Louis University Art Museum and the Woodruff Library in the Atlanta University Center at Clark Atlanta University, where Young received his undergraduate degree. *Photo courtesy the artist.*

Previous Great Rivers Biennial Recipients

2022: Yowshien Kuo, Yvonne Osei, Jon Young
2020: Kahlil Robert Irving, Tim Portlock, Rachel Youn
2018: Addoley Dzegede, Sarah Paulsen, Jacob Stanley
2016: Lyndon Barrois Jr., Nanette Boileau, Tate Foley
2014: Brandon Anschutz, Carlie Trosclair, Cayce Zavaglia
2012: David Johnson, Asma Kazmi, Mel Trad
2010: Martin Brief, Sarah Frost, Cameron Fuller
2008: Juan William Chávez, Corey Escoto, Michelle Oosterbaan
2006: Jason Wallace Triefenbach, Moses, Matthew Strauss
2004: Jill Downen, Adam Frelin, Kim Humphries

The Great Rivers Biennial is made possible by the Gateway Foundation.

GATEWAY FOUNDATION

About the Gateway Foundation

The Gateway Foundation strives to enrich St. Louis life and culture by supporting efforts to acquire, create, and improve tangible and durable art and urban design. The focus of Gateway is to foster and support cultural and artistic activities devoted to improving the quality of life in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Visit the Gateway Foundation's website at gateway-foundation.org and Twitter feed [@CitygardenSTL](https://twitter.com/CitygardenSTL).

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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