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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-winning artist Hajra Waheed debuts first US solo exhibition at Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, opening September 8



Hajra Waheed, *Hum*, 2020. Multi-channel sound installation with custom speaker casings, 36 minutes, 17 seconds. Installation view, Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany (July 11–September 6, 2020). Courtesy the artist. Photo courtesy Diana Pfammatter.

August 8, 2023 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) announces a major solo exhibition of new and existing works by Montréal-based artist Hajra Waheed. Marking the first solo exhibition of Waheed's work in the United States, the presentation will include video, sound installation, painting, and works on paper including newly commissioned works. The exhibition offers the first definitive consideration of the artist's practice in the country and will be accompanied by a major exhibition catalog published by the Museum. [*Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition*](#) will be on view at CAM from September 8, 2023–February 11, 2024.

Waheed's multidisciplinary practice explores the legacies of colonial and state violence with a uniquely poetic approach and engagement with the world. Weaving between the intimate and infinite constellations of the communities of which she is a part, her works in the exhibition—while rooted in the historical—imagine new possibilities towards a radically collective future. The artist's work has been shown internationally and has received major recognition; recently, Waheed received the 2022 Outstanding

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

Achievement Award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation in Ottawa, Canada and the 2023 Sharjah Biennial 15 Prize in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Waheed's exhibition will include *Hum* (2020), the artist's immersive, 16-channel musical composition and sound installation. Originally commissioned for *Lahore Biennale 02* and staged for Portikus in Frankfurt in 2020, *Hum* will be re-created by the artist specifically for CAM's galleries this fall as part of its US debut. This key work, whose title translates to "We" in Urdu, reflects on international solidarity movements that emerged in the second half of the 20th century through processes of decolonization in the Global South. The composition features eight hummed songs of resistance from South, Central, West Asia, and Africa. The exhibition will also include a new series of sculptures, drawings, and painted works on paper commissioned for this exhibition alongside recent works including video and sculpture.

"The magnetic works of this acclaimed artist—presented for the first time in a major US showing—will be an exciting new discovery for our audiences," said Executive Director Lisa Melandri. "Hajra's exhibition will feature a whole new suite of works that are responsive to CAM's spaces. We are delighted to share these works with St. Louis audiences and to connect our visitors with one of the most important and relevant artists working globally today."

Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition will be accompanied by a major exhibition publication featuring a conversation between Wassan Al-Khudhairi and the artist as well as guest essays from writer, translator, and educator Rayya Badran and writer and editor H.G. Masters. Designed by Marquand Books and distributed by D.A.P., the catalog will be published by CAM and released in fall 2023.

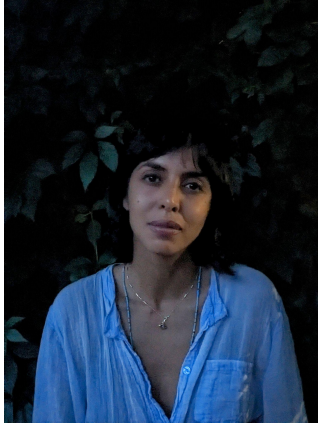
Major support for *Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition* is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. This exhibition is generously supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Strive Fund, and the Whitaker Foundation. *Hum* was made possible with the generous support of the Lahore Biennial Foundation and Portikus, Frankfurt. The artist talk is sponsored by the Robert Lehman Foundation.



Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, former Ferring Foundation Chief Curator, with Misa Jeffereis, Associate Curator.



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Hajra Waheed (b. 1980, currently lives and works in Montréal) is a multidisciplinary artist whose recent international exhibitions include: *O Quilombismo*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2023); *Sharjah Biennial 15*, UAE (2023); *State of Concept*, Athens (2023); *Relations: Diaspora and Painting*, PHI Foundation, Montréal (2021); *Hum*, Portikus, Frankfurt (2020); *Globale Resistance*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2020); *Lahore Biennial 02*, Pakistan (2020); *Pushing Paper: Contemporary Drawing from 1970 to Now*, British Museum, London (2019); *Hold Everything Dear*, The Power Plant, Toronto (2019); *57th Venice Biennale, VIVA ARTE VIVA*, Venice (2017); *11th Gwangju Biennale*, South Korea (2016); *The Cyphers*, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (2016); *Still Against the Sky*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2015); *La Biennale de Montréal*, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Quebec (2014); *Lines of Control*, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY (2012); and *(In) The First Circle*, Antoni Tàpies Foundation, Barcelona (2012). She is the recipient of the Sharjah Biennial 15 Prize (2023), the Hnatyshyn Foundation Award (2022), the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award (2014) for outstanding achievement as a mid-career artist, and a finalist for the Sobey Art Award (2016). *Photo courtesy the artist.*

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, September 9

Artist Talk: Hajra Waheed 1:00–2:00 pm

For press access on September 8th, including interview opportunities with Hajra Waheed, RSVP to Samantha Lyons, Communications Specialist, at slyons@camstl.org.

To schedule a Zoom or phone interview with artist Hajra Waheed or former Ferring Foundation Chief Curator Wassan Al-Khudhairi 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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