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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CAM's 20th Anniversary Gala and Soirée raised over \$600,000 to support the Museum's mission of presenting the most innovative artwork being made today for today's audiences—and all for free**



**April 29, 2024 (St. Louis, MO)**—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Museum at its spring gala held at the 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Consisting of twenty influential leaders who have shaped CAM throughout its twenty-year history, Gala Chairs included: Dwyer Brown; Boo and Chuck Cook; Alexis Cossé; Alison and John Ferring, Terry Good, Jan and Ronnie Greenberg, Paul Ha, Nancy and Ken Kranzberg, Betsy Wright Millard, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Ann R. Ruwitch, Susan Sherman, Andy Srenco, Pat Whitaker, Jackie Yoon, and Donna Moog (deceased). The night honored acclaimed American architect and principal of Allied Works, Brad Cloepfil, whose visionary design for the Museum building opened in 2003 and marked a new era for the Museum and the arts community in St. Louis.

**CAM's 20th Anniversary Gala generated over \$600,000 through ticket sales, the Fund the Need live auction, individual donations, and sponsorship revenues.** Gala attendees raised their paddles during the Fund the Need auction to ensure free access to art for the next generation of St. Louisans. In less than twenty minutes, more than \$230,000 was raised in support of artists, exhibitions, community initiatives, and youth arts education at CAM, **making it CAM's most successful Fund the Need auction to date.** Part of the record-setting total is due to the improvised action of Gala Chair Alison Ferring, who took the stage just as the auction was concluding to announce that the Ferring Family Foundation would match up to \$20,000 and invited attendees to continue raising their paddles to meet this new goal. The room continued to show their support for CAM, some guests raising their paddles for a second time to meet the match.

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“It’s hard to put into words how extraordinarily impactful this evening was for CAM,” said Lisa Melandri, the Museum’s Executive Director. “Seeing the deep generosity of so many people supporting the Museum was a bit overwhelming for me. We are beyond grateful to all of the incredible people who give their support and care for CAM’s future, many of whom not only helped found the museum and supported it during its early years, but also have continued to help ensure its success for decades on. It is truly energizing to receive such a strong vote of confidence in our charge of creating meaningful engagement with the most relevant and innovative art being made today and keeping CAM free to all.”

As CAM’s primary fundraising event, the 20th Anniversary Gala and Soirée raised twenty percent of the Museum’s operating budget in support of CAM’s extraordinary exhibitions presenting the most innovative work being made today for today’s audiences, as well as numerous educational programs and initiatives including CAM’s ArtReach program which has expanded to include Sumner and Vashon High Schools; New Art in the Neighborhood (which was started more than twenty-seven years ago); LEAP Middle School Initiative; and the Teen Museum Studies program.



With guests from CAM’s past and present, the evening celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Museum and honored architect Brad Cloepfil. Over the past twenty years, Cloepfil’s visionary design for CAM has allowed it to become a 21st-century beacon of creativity in the historic Grand Center Arts District of St. Louis. After Gala Chair and CAM Board Member Emily Rauh Pulitzer—who was part of the architect selection committee during its development—gave a heartfelt speech honoring Cloepfil, Lisa Melandri surprised him with a proclamation from the City of St.

Louis recognizing April 19, 2024 as Brad Cloepfil Day in St. Louis, commemorating the Museum’s groundbreaking which took place on April 19, 2001.

Taking inspiration from the architecture of CAM’s building, our sponsors included:

**Foundation Sponsors:** Clayco, Nancy Reynolds and Dwyer Brown; Ann R. Ruwitch and John Fox Arnold; Wells Fargo Advisors, and Ann Yeatman Sheehan. **Concrete Sponsors:** Ferring Family Foundation and Emily Rauh Pulitzer. **Steel Sponsor:** Allied Works, JiaMin and Michael Dierberg, Edwards Jones, Jan and Ronnie Greenberg, Nancy and Ken Kranzberg, Susan B. McCollum, Penny Pennington and Michael Fidler, The Staenberg Group, and Jackie Yoon. **Mesh Sponsor:** Jamieson Design, Moneta, and Susan and David Sherman III. **Glass Sponsor:** Ameren, Alexis Cossé and Erik Karanik, David Mason + Associates, PNC, First Bank, RGA, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, Kate and Howard Stephens, Stifel, Tarlton, and Pat Whitaker and Dick Miles. **Special thanks** to AO&Co, Breakthru Beverage of Missouri, Dierberg Estate Vineyard, Evtiv, Glow Booth, and Urban Chestnut Brewing Company.



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## 20th Anniversary of CAM

On September 19, 2003, CAM opened its exceptional new building designed by Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works. Cloepfil's critically acclaimed design has enabled the Museum to present the work of nearly 700 artists, produce 260+ exhibitions, and welcome 550,500+ visitors into its flexible, inviting, and open space. The interwoven concrete and signature steel mesh have integrated art into the fabric of the neighborhood in new ways, both physically and programmatically. Expansive windows bring the art outside and the streetscape in, melding the incidental with the extraordinary. With its educational galleries and classroom, Cloepfil's building has made it possible for CAM to establish community engagements with nearby St. Louis high schools, giving the city's talented young artists access to luminaries like Mark Bradford, Derek Fordjour, Maya Lin, Amy Sherald, and Paul Chan, whose exhibition *Breathers* is currently on view at CAM through August 11, 2024.

Since CAM opened its new doors twenty years ago, Cloepfil and Allied Works have designed such celebrated spaces as the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, the Clyfford Still Museum in Denver, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, and the Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State University, opening this June. In each of these works, Cloepfil creates highly adaptable, elevating environments for experiencing art.

At its founding, CAM was envisioned as a space where inventive and challenging works would create meaningful conversation. From its early days as the Forum for Contemporary Art to its presence now as one of the major contemporary art museums in the country, Cloepfil has enabled CAM to achieve its boldest visions for the future.

[Hi-resolution photos available for download.](#)

## 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).

### Photo Captions

- 1) CAM's 20th Anniversary Gala Chairs. Back row: Terry Good, Jan Greenberg, Jackie Yoon, Boo Cook, Chuck Cook, Susan Sherman, Brad Cloepfil, Lisa Melandri, Ronnie Greenberg, Alexis Cossé, Ken Kranzberg, Ann R. Ruwitch, John Ferring, Andy Sreno, and Dwyer Brown. Front row, seated: Pat Whitaker, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Betsy Wright Millard, Paul Ha, Nancy Kranzberg, and Alison Ferring. Photo: Carmody Creative Photography
- 2) Lisa Melandri and Brad Cloepfil. Photo: Carmody Creative Photography

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