

Gallery Guide

Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

September 6, 2024–February 9, 2025



Ad Minoliti: Manifestación pluriversal



Ad Minoliti: Manifestación pluriversal, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, September 6, 2024–February 9, 2025. Photo: Izaiah Johnson.

Known for their inventive explorations of South American Modernist painting traditions, Ad Minoliti's work draws on the legacy of geometric abstraction in their native country of Argentina, where it was used as a tool to imagine utopian political and social alternatives in the 1940s. While Minoliti was inspired by the artwork and social goals these artists espoused, they also understood the ways these movements excluded women, and sensed a restrictiveness in their historic manifestos.

Minoliti's work is infused with inclusive, non-binary, and feminist perspectives, and it offers a fresh lens on art history and aesthetics. They combine abstraction, vibrant colors, and playful figuration drawn from both Modernist codes and children's book illustrations. Minoliti challenges the art world's self-seriousness by advocating for inclusivity, approachability, and more joyous experiences. "Why is it," they ask, "that something we call 'cute' can't also be seen as serious?"

For *Manifestación pluriversal*, Minoliti has selected multiple components to create a vibrantly colored mural for CAM's Project Wall that is 54 feet long and 12 feet high. Its colors are drawn from the colors of pride flags: purple and yellow from the Non-Binary Pride Flag, blue and pink from the Trans Pride Flag, and brown from the Progress Pride Flag, which recognizes communities of color. The green is a signature color for Argentinian feminist movements. Hanging atop the mural are five of Minoliti's square paintings on canvas. Several black-and-white shapes—a snail, a flower, a puppy, and an owl—that Minoliti found in an instructional book on drawing have been fabricated in wood and integrated into the composition.

Manifestación pluriversal also features more than a dozen life-sized self-portraits created by young artists from Proud Art STL, an organization that fosters community for LGBTQIA+ youth in St. Louis. The self-portraits were created in a workshop led by the artist and facilitated by CAM's Learning and Engagement department. These self-portraits offer the young artists' responses to the questions: *What moves you? What are you fighting for?* and *What do you want to achieve?* When the exhibition closes, the self-portraits will return to their creators.

In Spanish, the word *manifestación* can be translated as a rally, protest march, or demonstration. *Pluriversal*, in Spanish and English, refers to the notion of a pluriverse: a place where multiple realities exist simultaneously. Different from the singular universe, many worlds can coexist in a pluriverse. Minoliti's *Manifestación pluriversal* makes space for celebration and demonstrates their belief that to share in the joy of discovery, everyone should feel welcome.

Ad Minoliti: Manifestación pluriversal is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Dean Daderko, Ferring Foundation Chief Curator.

This exhibition is generously supported in part by Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg and Ann Yeatman Sheehan Charitable Trust.



**Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis**
3750 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.535.4660

Wed–Sun 10:00 am–5:00 pm
Open until 8:00 pm Fri

AO&Co at CAM
Wed–Sat 10:00 am–3:00 pm

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Ad Minoliti (b. 1980, Buenos Aires, Argentina) earned a BFA from the National Academy of Fine Arts Prilidiano Pueyrredón in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2003, completed studies with Diana Aisenberg in 2006, and was part of the Centro de Investigaciones Artísticas from 2009–2011. They are the recipient of numerous awards, including grants from the Ministry of Culture of Argentina, the Metropolitan Fund for the Arts of Buenos Aires, and Mexico's Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes. Minoliti's work has been included in the Biennale de Nice (2022); the BALTIC Center for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (2021); and the 58th Venice Biennale (2019). They are represented by Galería Agustina Ferreyra, San Juan; Galerie Crèvecoeur, Paris; and Peres Projects, Berlin.

Proud Art STL participants: Marvel Connolly, Telula Damron, Harper Dulatt, Luca Kirkpatrick, Cameron Lewis, Sean Lowery, Maple Miller-Ledbetter, Ray Mosley, Ginny Murphy, Ross Rhodes, Arlo Schoenfeld

Related Programs

Free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For a complete list of programs, please visit camstl.org

Work in Progress: Ad Minoliti

Wednesday, August 28, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm

Please note: This program has passed but a video recording of the conversation is available on CAM's website.

Learn More

Visit camstl.org for more information about *Ad Minoliti: Manifestación pluriversal*, including an **audio guide** by the curator and artist.

A circular logo with a black outline. Inside the circle, the text 'CAM is free!' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. 'CAM' is on the top line and 'is free!' is on the bottom line.

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