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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Teen Studio Art Exhibition presents artwork made by students in CAM's acclaimed LEAP Middle School Initiative and New Art in the Neighborhood programs



**August 19, 2024 (St. Louis, MO)**—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis presents the **Teen Studio Art Exhibition 2024** featuring work made by student artists in CAM's Teen Studio Art programs—**LEAP Middle School Initiative** and **New Art in the Neighborhood**—during the 2023–24 academic year. Offered during non-school hours, each program is taught by members of CAM's Resident Teaching Artist cohort and provides participants the opportunity to learn new skills and creative expression. Programs are held at CAM's Learning & Engagement Studio, tuition-free with all project materials provided.

**LEAP** is an after school program for middle school-aged artists (grades 6-8) who are interested in an in-depth exploration of contemporary art practices and mediums. LEAP Resident Teaching Artists this season created unique curricula that studied themes of identity and chance. Artists from **Olivia Obi's** fall LEAP course explored how identity can inform one's artistic expression. Artists created self-portraits through drawing, painting, clay, and dyed fabric that highlight their unique personalities and the impact of their external surroundings on their lives. In the spring LEAP course, **Jeremy Rabus** introduced the idea of chance in art. By balancing randomness and controlled processes, young artists created a layered painting on paper that used the element of chance and creative intuition to build an abstract artwork.

Since 1995, the nationally-acclaimed **New Art in the Neighborhood (NAN)** has sought to nourish the diverse and creative minds of our city's talented young artists. NAN is designed for high school students (grades 9-12), combining project-based learning with open studio exploration by introducing new art practices while also responding to their processes and curiosities. NAN Resident Teaching Artists this season each created unique curricula that studied themes of play and printmaking. Teen artists in **Misty Long-Donoho's** class embraced a philosophy she describes as "Full Sparkle—combining art and life through play, trickster energy, community, and mindfulness." With this method in mind, young artists created found object sculptures and two-dimensional artworks

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featuring a range of subject matter from floating umbrellas to unique twists on holiday traditions. **Blaine Deutsch's** class experimented with all things printmaking—from monoprints to screen printing—while also exploring how it has impacted contemporary mediums such as music and film.



*Teen Studio Art Exhibition 2024* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Brandon Barr, Teen and Adult Programs Manager.

LEAP Middle School Initiative, New Art in the Neighborhood, and Teen Studio Art Exhibition 2024 is generously supported in part by the Berges Family Foundation; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; The Strive Fund; Dana Brown Charitable Trust, U.S. Bank Trustee; Dick Miles and Pat Whitaker; Jenny Birgé; Ferring Family Foundation; Nancy and Ken Kranzberg; Anonymous; Edward Jones; Norman K. Probststein Charitable Foundation; The Terry and Phyllis Weiss Children's Education Fund; and Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.

#### **About the artists**

Fall 2023 LEAP artists include: Amiyah Arend, Bennett Fleschert, Ruth Fosdick, Ehron Gottfredsen, Leanna Haynes, Mabel Kanak, Aaden Sanchez, Jules Sawabini, Nadia Turner, Paul Villareal, Bix Winter, Benjamin Yates.

Spring 2024 LEAP artists include: Sully Becherer, Dante Charleston, Bennett Fleschert, Ruth Fosdick, Dani Fu, Ehron Gottfredsen, Leanna Haynes, Mabel Kanak, Kaelyn Krysowaty, Angus Lehrer, Aaden Sanchez, Jules Sawabini, Maggie Thrall, Cora June Toney, Paul Villareal, Bix Winter, Benjamin Yates

Fall 2023 NAN artists include: Tanshire Anderson, Caelan Brown, Delaney Fendler, Norah Goetz, Fern Kanak, Finn Kanak, Ivy Kanak, Kacy Kitchen, Sylvia Knolhoff, Salem Lambert, Felix Perez, Kylee Smith, Tariq Upchurch-Bey, Mars Vance, Jovi Vaughn, Frankie Williams, Jacob Williams



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Spring 2024 NAN artists include: Tanshire Anderson, Alexander Avia, Angela Carr, Jay Elvert, Delaney Fendler, Norah Goetz, Meliya Hall, Ava Jansen, Fern Kanak, Finn Kanak, Ivy Kanak, Amelia Kirsch, Sylvia Knolhoff, Salem Lambert, Kylee Smith, Jovi Vaughn, Frankie Williams, Jacob Williams

### **Related Events**

#### **Friday, September 6**

Patron and Press Preview, 10:00–11:30 am (RSVP required)

Member Preview, 6:00–7:00 pm

Public Opening, 7:00–9:00 pm

*For press access on September 6, including interview opportunities with the curator, contact Alexia Majors at [amajors@camstl.org](mailto:amajors@camstl.org)*

*For full event details, visit [camstl.org/calendar](https://camstl.org/calendar)*

### **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](https://camstl.org).

#### **Image Captions**

Image 1) Artwork by Jovi Vaughn from New Art in the Neighborhood with Resident Teaching Artist Misty Long Donoho.

Image 2) Full Sparkle parade with Resident Teaching Artist Misty Long Donoho and students from New Art in the Neighborhood.

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