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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Great Rivers Biennial 2024 exhibiting artist Basil Kincaid and Bisa Butler explore familial and global influences, fabrics and quilting at Artist Talk on October 29



Left: Basil Kincaid. Photo: Tyler Small. Left: Bisa Butler. Photo: Paul Chinnerly.

October 21, 2024 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents [Artist Talk: Bisa Butler and Basil Kincaid](#) on **Tuesday, October 29 from 6:00 pm–7:00 pm**. Moderated by CAM’s Associate Curator Misa Jeffereis, the artists will explore shared themes and practices engaged by their artworks, including family influences, fabrics and quilting, and a range of influences from Ghana to the American South. Registration is encouraged, visit camstl.org to reserve your spot.

In addition to the Artist Talk, visitors will have the opportunity to view CAM’s newly-installed fall 2024 exhibitions—including fellow Great Rivers Biennial artists Ronald Young and Saj Issa. The fall 2024 exhibitions will be on view through **February 9, 2025**. For more information, visit camstl.org.

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Event Details

What: Artist Talk: Bisa Butler and Basil Kincaid

Where: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

(3750 Washington Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63108)

When: Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm–7:00 pm; Doors open at 5:30 pm

To learn more about Basil Kincaid and the works on view, [visit our exhibitions page](#). For press access on October 29, including interview opportunities with Basil Kincaid and curators, contact Alexia Majors at amajors@camstl.org.

Great Rivers Biennial 2024: Saj Issa, Basil Kincaid, Ronald Young is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Dean Daderko, Ferring Foundation Chief Curator, and Misa Jeffereis, Associate Curator, with support from Grace Early, Exhibitions Assistant.

GATEWAY FOUNDATION

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

About the Artists

Basil Kincaid (b. 1986, St. Louis, MO) is an artist who honors and evolves traditional practices through quilting, drawing, collaging, photography, installation, and performance. Kincaid received his BA in drawing and painting at Colorado College, Colorado Springs and has exhibited works with Hauser & Wirth, Mindy Solomon Gallery, Kravets Wehby Gallery, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Carl Kostyál, and others. Kincaid has received fellowships from the Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis, and United States Artists. Recent solo exhibitions include *The New Bend* at Hauser & Wirth, New York and Los Angeles locations; *New African Portraiture* at the Kunsthalle Krems, Austria; *All in One Feeling* at Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami; *Dancing the Wind Walk*, a semi-permanent fabric monument during Frieze Los Angeles 2023, with support from the Art Production Fund; and a ceremonial installation at Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis, among others. Kincaid's work is in the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Bisa Butler (b. 1973, Orange, NJ), through her dynamic, celebratory quilted portraits of people of African descent, investigates the purposes and potential of portraiture within the Black historical narrative. Butler's influences range widely from personal family scrapbooks to American folk traditions and AfriCOBRA philosophies. Although her finished works are made entirely of textiles, Butler approaches the medium from a painterly perspective. Sourcing imagery mainly from photographs, she uses layered fabrics and quilting to create unique compositions, psychological depth and detailed textures that she found missing from her paintings. By returning to textiles, Butler has reconnected with her family's history since

it was her grandmother and mother who taught her to sew. Bisa Butler lives in South Orange, New Jersey and has a studio in Jersey City. Butler earned her BFA in painting at Howard University, Washington, D.C. in 1995 and holds a MAT in teaching art from Montclair State University, New Jersey. Her work has been exhibited widely, both domestically and internationally. In 2020, Butler had her first institutional solo exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work can be found in the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and Pérez Art Museum, Miami. The World Is Yours, Butler's first solo exhibition with Jeffrey Deitch, in 2023 in New York, was enthusiastically received and attracted thousands of visitors.

About the Gateway Foundation

Founded in 1986, the Gateway Foundation seeks to enrich life and culture in the St. Louis area by supporting efforts to acquire, create, or improve tangible and durable art and urban design. In 2009, the Foundation's largest project, a two-block sculpture park called Citygarden, opened in downtown St. Louis in the Gateway Mall. Notable installations can be seen by visiting Citygarden, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Washington University, the Central Library, The Science Center, and The Sheldon Concert Hall, to name just a few, with more than 70 installations throughout the region. Additionally, the Foundation has arranged for and funded the lighting of the Gateway Arch, St. Louis City Hall, the Old Courthouse, the Civil Courts Building, the City's three landmark Water Towers, and other historically important and/or architecturally significant structures, and has funded the building of several City playgrounds and parks. More information is available at gateway-foundation.org and citygardenstl.org.

About the Great Rivers Biennial

The Great Rivers Biennial Art Award is a collaborative initiative established in 2003 between the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and the Gateway Foundation. Every two years, the program grants emerging and mid-career artists working in the greater St. Louis metropolitan region with a significant honorarium and a major exhibition opportunity. This initiative, now in its 11th edition, has recognized the standout creative voices of 33 local artists and contributed to the larger cultural ecosystem supporting artists in our region.

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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