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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Enjoy art, music, and culture at First Friday in Grand Center
celebrating Great Rivers Biennial 2024 exhibiting artist Ronald Young
on November 1**



Photo Courtesy: Tyler Small

October 28, 2024 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents **First Friday: Celebrating Ronald Young** on November 1 from 5:00 pm–9:00 pm. As a part of First Fridays in Grand Center, this event will showcase art, music, and culture in honor of local artist Ronald Young who is featured in CAM's current exhibition, *Great Rivers Biennial 2024*.

[First Friday: Celebrating Ronald Young](#) is a casual gathering for visitors to mingle with the artist, see his exhibition on view, and hear a special set by DJ Nico. Throughout the evening, attendees may participate in an interactive assemblage art-making activity led by the artist's son, multidisciplinary artist Kenneth Young. Drinks and specialty cocktails will be available for purchase from AO&Co. This program is free and open to the public.

In addition to the festivities, visitors will have the opportunity to view CAM's newly-installed fall 2024 exhibitions as the galleries will be open late until 9:00 pm—including fellow Great Rivers Biennial artists Basil Kincaid 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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Hours
10–5 Wed
10–5 Thu
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Event Details

What: First Friday: Celebrating Ronald Young

Where: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (3750 Washington Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63108)

When: Friday, November 1, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm–9:00 pm

Admission: This event is free and open to the public

Event Schedule

5:00 pm: Drinks and specialty cocktails available for purchase from AO&Co.

6:00–8:00 pm: Drop-in assemblage art-making activity with the artist's son, Kenneth Young

7:00–8:30 pm: Music by DJ Nico

To learn more about Ronald Young and the works on view, [visit our exhibitions page](#). For press access on November 1, including interview opportunities with Ronald Young and curators, contact Alexia Majors at amajors@camstl.org.

Related Event

[Artist Talk: Ronald Young at Webster University](#)

Friday, November 1, 2024

12:00–1:00 pm

Join *Great Rivers Biennial 2024* artist Ronald Young for a lecture at his alma mater, Webster University. This event is free and open to the public, and is offered as part of the Department of Art, Design and Art History Lecture Series at Webster University.

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.



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About the Artist

Ronald Young (b. 1956, St. Louis, MO) creates mixed-media assemblages from objects he finds in his immediate environment: aged doors, old tools, wood molding trim, rusty chains, ropes, bricks, and nails are among the objects he salvages and repurposes in his practice. His socially-conscious artworks celebrate the resourcefulness and resilience of African Americans. A retired art teacher with over 33 years of experience, Young received his MFA from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Art at Washington University in St. Louis, where he was the recipient of a Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship. He received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Japan in 2007. Recent exhibitions of Young's work include the solo exhibition *The Prevalence of Ritual* at The Gallery at The Kranzberg and a group exhibition *Ferguson and Beyond: Artistic Responses to a Decade of Social Upheaval 2014-2024* at Webster University's Hunt Gallery. Young's works are in public and private collections across the US, including the St. Louis University Art Museum and Clark Atlanta University, where Young received his undergraduate degree.

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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