

ArtReach: Confluence is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Miriam Ruiz, Education Manager.

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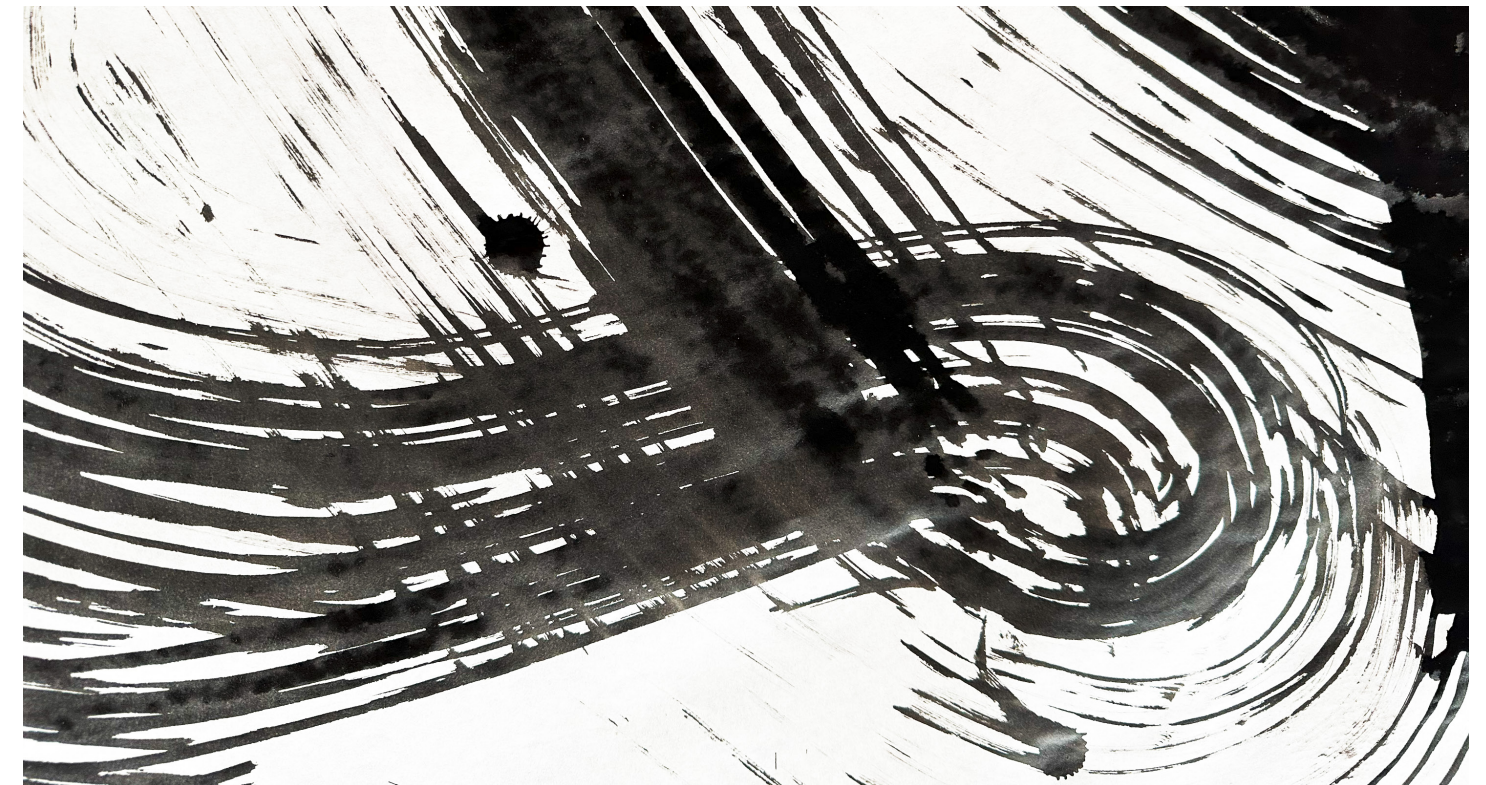


Gallery Guide
Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

March 7–August 10, 2025



ArtReach: Confluence



Omari Adams, *untitled* (detail). Photo: Rodrick Whetstone.



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

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Open until 8:00 pm Fri

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CAM's ArtReach Partnership works with St. Louis Public Schools to provide support in classrooms where art is needed most. Started in 2017 with Vashon High School, this suite of programs ensures a consistent art curriculum is available for students year-round at participating schools through twice-weekly classes led by Resident Teaching Artists (RTA). In 2018, CAM featured its first ArtReach student showcase, exhibiting artwork made by Vashon students with guidance by the first cohort of RTAs. In 2021, the ArtReach Partnership expanded when Sumner High School became CAM's second partner.

Now, for more than eight years, CAM has worked with teaching artists to provide classes in creative disciplines from photography and found object installations to digital graphic design and improvisational performance

in the classroom. The ArtReach program also supports short-term workshops at select schools, as well as training for the RTA cohort for ArtReach classrooms and beyond.

During the 2024–25 school year, RTAs and students explored media and concepts related to the theme of "confluence." This subject is inspired by St. Louis's close proximity to the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, which has defined much of this city's identity but also served as inspiration for the CAM's spring/summer 2025 exhibitions, *Like Water* and *Make the River Present*. Using their different studio practices, RTAs Dee Levang, Adrienne Outlaw, and Rodrick Whetstone have each interpreted the confluence theme differently with their students.



Fuse It (detail). Photo: CAM staff.

Digital Confluence

In this installation, small grey items line the walls, some recognizable (a star, a cell phone holder) and others less so (a triangle with a tophat). These figurines are results of Sumner students investigating the process of digital designing. RTA Rodrick Whetstone guided students through the challenges of translating their initial two-dimensional sketched ideas into models that could be 3D printed. With the actual fabrication of the final objects being far more hands-off than art students are used to, the design process functioned more like a science experiment, with non-viable prints prompting the students to adjust their designs in the modeling programs before trying to print again.

Creating Flow

Sumner students learned about intuitive mark-making under the guidance of RTA Dee Levang. This meant leaning into the natural properties of more unpredictable mediums like watercolor and Indian ink,

along with wax emulsion, salt, and student-made paintbrushes consisting of yarn, pipe cleaners, and twine. The students's efforts yielded colorful abstract paintings, ranging from more subtle, gritty gradations left from the salt to the energetic splatters and sprays from swiping a mop over the paper.

Braid it, Weave it, Fuse it: The Confluence of Plastics and Ideas

The “nets” and wreaths of braided plastic and fused fabric and shopping bag collages in this installation showcase the work of Vashon students led by RTA Adrienne Outlaw. Limiting themselves to materials that pass from consumer hands through the great waterways of the United States to their final destination of the Gulf of Mexico, students also engaged in intuitive creation, allowing the materials themselves to suggest their final form. Thus, the gallery hosts columns of stacked bottle caps and twisted, braided plastic bags knit together into fibrous masses—all of the items incorporated were collected by Museum staff over the period of a month.

Participating Artists from Sumner High School: Omari Adams, Andre Depass, Karmyn Griffith, Dalijah Harris, Demetrius Harris, Jayden Haulcy, Syniah Henson, Janiaya Hubbard, Darihanna Jones, Darryl Jackson, Hannah Johnson, Faith Jones, Anthony Kimble, Jada Lampkin, Michael Miles, Rodney Phillips, Londyn Ranch, Khalil Ransom, Jerrell Reece, Matthew Sanders, Tre'Sean Smith, and Lamon Williams

Participating Artists from Vashon High School: London Blake, Amynie Bland, Brian Blockette, Elijah Holmes, Demarion Hutson, Cameryn “Cam” James, Rihanna Kennell, Minetta McGruder, Darren Oneal, Charles Rozier, Samirah “Mirra” Simpson-Bey, Brandon Smith, Jaleigha Thomas, and Chasidy Weekly

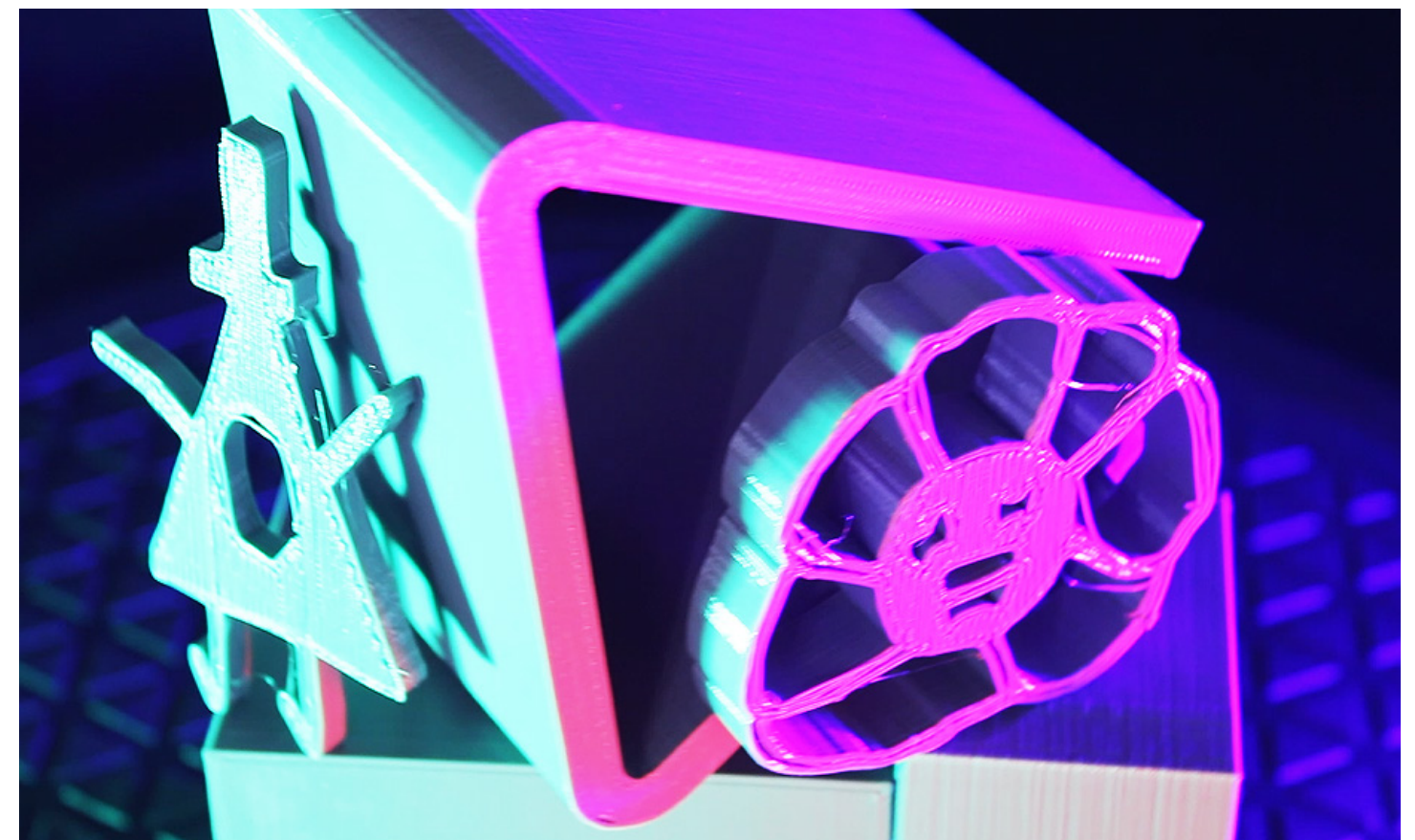
About the Resident Teaching Artists

Adrienne Outlaw is a socially engaged, multidisciplinary artist utilizing post-consumer plastic waste as source material to address issues of environmental and societal responsibility. Outlaw holds degrees from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Vanderbilt University. She has exhibited both nationally and abroad in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Her work has been featured in more than a dozen exhibition catalogs and books, and positively reviewed in various publications including *Art in America*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *World Sculpture News*, and *Art Papers*. She has earned grants from the National

Endowment for the Arts, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement. Outlaw currently has a large-scale exhibition at the St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

Dee Levang is a multidisciplinary artist who explores abstract visual expression through the use of water, wax, and wool. Themes addressed in her work include stillness, calmness, otherness, memory, and dreams. Originally from Los Angeles, Levang studied graphic design at CalArts. She teaches fiber and encaustic workshops locally and regionally, as well as Continuing Education classes at St. Louis Community College. A member of the International Encaustic Artists, Surface Design Association, and the St. Louis Artists' Guild, she's been awarded grants and scholarships from Regional Arts Commission and the International Encaustic Conference.

Rodrick Whetstone is a graphic designer residing in St. Louis, MO, and an Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Through his work bringing greater awareness to instances of police brutality, he hopes to encourage a change within the system. Whetstone earned a BA from Grand View University in Des Moines, IA, and an MA and MFA in Graphic Design from the University of Iowa.



Student Showcase (detail). Photo: CAM staff.