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Contemporary Art  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Semi-finalists selected for Great Rivers Biennial 2026**



**July 10, 2025 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) and the Gateway Foundation announce 10 semi-finalists for the [Great Rivers Biennial 2026](#) (GRB). As with previous Biennials, a distinguished panel of independent jurors selected the semi-finalists from a pool of 93 applicants. The artists selected work in a wide range of mediums including sculpture, painting, video, installation, assemblage, and ceramic, among others. After completing studio visits with each of the semi-finalists later this month, the jurors will select three artists from this list as finalists. The Gateway Foundation has generously raised its artist honorarium to \$25,000, up from \$20,000, to be awarded to the three finalists who will also be featured in the Great Rivers Biennial exhibition, on view at CAM from **September 11, 2026–February 7, 2027**.

**The Great Rivers Biennial 2026 semi-finalists include:**

[Eva Agüero](#)  
[Alex Braden](#)  
[Gregory Carter](#)  
[Vaughn Davis Jr.](#)  
[Lauren dela Roche](#)  
[Joe DeVera](#)  
[glyneisha](#)  
[Sophia Hatzikos](#)  
[Martin Lammert](#)  
[Vincent Stemmler](#)

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**Hours**  
10–5 Wed  
10–5 Thu  
10–8 Fri  
10–5 Sat & Sun

**CAM is free. Visit often!**

This year's GRB jurors are **Leslie Hewitt**, artist and Associate Professor of Art at Rice University in Houston; **Margot Norton**, Chief Curator at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley; and **Pavel Pyš**, Curator of Visual Arts and Collections Strategy at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Following in-person visits by the guest jurors with each semi-finalist, a deliberation will take place to select the three finalists.

CAM's Ferring Foundation Chief Curator Dean Daderko and Associate Curator Misa Jeffereis will act as organizing curators for the Biennial, with assistance from Grace Early, Exhibitions Assistant. CAM staff will work with the finalists towards the realization of their exhibitions and related programming.

Established in 2003, the Great Rivers Biennial is a collaborative initiative that grants three emerging and mid-career artists working in the greater St. Louis metropolitan region with an unrestricted cash award, and elevates their profiles through an exhibition and programming at CAM. Now in its 12th edition, the Great Rivers Biennial takes place every two years and has recognized the standout creative voices of 33 local artists since its founding, contributing to the larger cultural ecosystem supporting artists in our region.

#### **Previous Great Rivers Biennial Recipients**

2024: Saj Issa, Basil Kincaid, and Ronald Young  
2022: Yowshien Kuo, Yvonne Osei, and Jon Young  
2020: Kahlil Robert Irving, Tim Portlock, and Rachel Youn  
2018: Addoley Dzegede, Sarah Paulsen, and Jacob Stanley  
2016: Lyndon Barrois Jr., Nanette Boileau, and Tate Foley  
2014: Brandon Anschutz, Carlie Trosclair, and Cayce Zavaglia  
2012: David Johnson, Asma Kazmi, and Mel Trad  
2010: Martin Brief, Sarah Frost, and Cameron Fuller  
2008: Juan William Chávez, Corey Escoto, and Michelle Oosterbaan  
2006: Jason Wallace Triefenbach, Moses, and Matthew Strauss  
2004: Jill Downen, Adam Frelin, and Kim Humphries

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

## GATEWAY FOUNDATION

#### **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. From prominent public sites downtown to community college campuses in St. Louis County and a substantial installation site within the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Foundation has purchased and installed more than 70 sculptures in the area. Additionally, the Foundation has designed and funded the lighting of the Gateway Arch, City Hall, the Old Courthouse, the Civil Courts Building, the

City's three landmark Water Towers, and other historically and architecturally significant structures. More information is available at [gateway-foundation.org](http://gateway-foundation.org) and [citygardenstl.org](http://citygardenstl.org).



**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](http://camstl.org).