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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***We Find Ourselves* celebrates 30 Years of Teens Making Art in CAM's Education Galleries, opening September 5, 2025**



New Art in the Neighborhood cohort with Roseann Weiss, former Program and Education Director, and Betsy Millard, former Executive Director of the Forum for Contemporary Art, 1995.

August 4, 2025 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents ***We Find Ourselves: 30 Years of Teens Making Art***, an exhibition honoring three decades of partnership between CAM and teens who live and go to school in surrounding neighborhoods. Featuring work by student artists from CAM's long-running New Art in the Neighborhood (NAN) and ArtReach programs, the exhibition traces the legacy of these initiatives through artwork, archival materials, and personal reflections from past and present participants. *We Find Ourselves* will be on view in CAM's Education Galleries from **September 5, 2025–February 8, 2026**.

It all started in the 1990s when a small group of neighborhood teens wandered into the Museum—then known as the Forum for Contemporary Art—and were captivated by what they saw. This moment sparked the creation of NAN, a program that opened the Museum's doors to young people eager to explore contemporary art. Over the years, CAM has deepened its investment in youth education, providing access, mentorship, and opportunities to hundreds of student artists across the region.

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

We Find Ourselves opens with recent works by students at Vashon and Sumner High Schools through CAM's ArtReach Partnership, an initiative launched in 2017 that offers weekly art classes embedded in school curriculum. Since 2021, the program has expanded to include the historic Sumner High School, offering students hands-on access to contemporary art practices and mentorship from Resident Teaching Artists.

"This is a celebration of what can happen when young people are given the space, tools, and support to express themselves," says Miriam Ruiz, CAM's Education Manager. "Over the past 30 years, we've seen how art can connect teens to new possibilities—and just as importantly, how their voices can reshape our understanding of what museums should be."

The second gallery offers a look back at key milestones from the past three decades, including the 1995 NAN student showcase *We Find Ourselves in the Life Around Us*, which inspired the title of the current exhibition. Through stories, photographs, artwork, and a detailed timeline, the exhibition demonstrates CAM's evolving role in the neighborhood while honoring the creative legacy of its youth programs.

By bringing together collaborative public artworks of the past and recent multidisciplinary projects—*We Find Ourselves* highlights how consistent, responsive arts education can shape not just individual artists, but entire communities.

We Find Ourselves: 30 Years of Teens Making Art is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Miriam Ruiz, Education Manager.

ArtReach is generously supported in part by the Berges Family Foundation; The Strive Fund; Ann Yeatman Sheehan Charitable Trust; Clayco; Dana Brown Charitable Trust, U.S. Bank Trustee; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; Dick Miles and Pat Whitaker; Jenny Birgé; Anonymous; Crawford Taylor Foundation; The Saigh Foundation; Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation; Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.; Stantec; St. Louis Philanthropic Organization, Inc.; The Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation; and The Terry and Phyllis Weiss Children's Education Fund. Special thanks to Vito's Sicilian Pizzeria & Ristorante.

Related Events

Friday, September 5

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 5, including interview opportunities with the curator, contact Alexia Majors at amajors@camstl.org

For full event details, visit camstl.org/calendar



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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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