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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Andrea Carlson: Endless Sunshine* brings new large-scale paintings exploring Indigenous sovereignty and the poetics of place to CAM, opening March 6, 2026**



Andrea Carlson, *Anti-Retro*, 2018, 20-layer screenprint, 34 x 47 inches. Photo courtesy of the artist.

January 21, 2026 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) will present a solo exhibition by Andrea Carlson (b. 1979, Grand Portage Ojibwe/European descent), whose practice reclaims and reimagines narratives of land, belonging, and representation. The exhibition will include a body of work entitled *Endless Sunshine*—comprising new large-scale paintings on birchbark—as well as paintings on paper, screenprints, and sculpture made between 2018 and the present. [Andrea Carlson: Endless Sunshine](#) will be on view at CAM from **March 6–August 9, 2026**.

Based in Northern Minnesota, Carlson is primarily a landscape artist who challenges historical fictions through powerful mixed-media works. At the core of her practice is an intentional opposition to the colonialist impulse to own and conquer. Her paintings interrogate longing and desire, permission and refusal, as well as themes around efforts to reclaim ancestral lands.

Carlson creates incisive works of resistance that dismantle colonial storytelling and practices of erasure through an artistic practice that combines intergenerational history,



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archival research, and increasingly personal references, as well as references to Western art history and film theory. Carlson examines how institutions, museums, and archives shape dominant understandings of the American landscape, and how Indigenous knowledge and sovereignty challenge and transform those views.

“Carlson’s work rewrites the visual vocabulary of historical landscape painting and turns it into an act of reclamation,” says Associate Curator Misa Jeffereis. “Her layered paintings confront histories of erasure and dispossession, opening portals to a decolonized future.”

Carlson’s intricate, multi-panel paintings—made with oil, acrylic, gouache, colored pencil, graphite, watercolor, and ink—point to vivid, imagined landscapes. The horizon line is a persistent organizing principle, inspired by the vast and elusive expanse of Lake Superior. Viewers are drawn into her dense, collage-like imagery, only to encounter impenetrable depths beyond the central figures and landscapes. The scale of Carlson’s works, some as large as 10 feet tall and 15 feet wide, resists containment and denies the viewer any illusion of possession over the land.

For her presentation at CAM, Carlson is developing a body of work entitled *Endless Sunshine*, comprising large-scale paintings on birchbark—her first undertaking of this material, which is deeply connected to her ancestral homeland. This exhibition marks the premier of these works, with additional new paintings, screenprints, and sculpture expanding on the artist’s continued inquiry into how land holds narratives of power and dispossession.

“Carlson’s paintings carry a sense of monumentality that will come alive within CAM’s open and light-filled architecture,” says Jeffereis. “In this space, visitors will be able to experience the full breadth of her practice—its expansiveness, its precision, and its reverence for story and place.”

Rooted in visual and linguistic preservation, this exhibition invites audiences to reconsider how landscapes are imagined and remembered, and how art can illuminate paths toward collective healing and self-determination.

Andrea Carlson: Endless Sunshine is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Misa Jeffereis, Associate Curator, with support from Grace Early, Exhibitions Assistant.

This exhibition is generously supported in part by Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, Shereen and Michael Fischer, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, and Whitaker Foundation. Special thanks to Jessica Silverman, San Francisco. The artist talk is generously supported in part by the Robert Lehman Foundation.

W H I T A K E R F O U N D A T I O N

CAM will host a press preview on March 6, 2026. For press inquiries, including access to the preview or interview opportunities with the artist or curator, contact Alexia Majors at amajors@camstl.org.



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Related Events

Friday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

Artist Talk: Andrea Carlson, 11:00 am

About the artist



Andrea Carlson (b. 1979) is a visual artist who maintains a studio practice in northern Minnesota and Chicago, IL. Carlson's recent exhibitions include *Shimmer on Horizons*, a solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (2024) and group exhibitions including *Scientia Sexualis* at the Institute of Contemporary Art Los Angeles (2024–25). *The Land Carries Our Ancestors*, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC (2023); *Inheritance*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2023); and the Chicago Architecture Biennale (2023). Her recent public art commissions include *You are on Potawatomi Land*, Chicago Riverwalk (2021–23), and *RED EXIT*, Whitney Museum of American Art with TF Cornerstone and High Line Art (2021). In 2020, Carlson cofounded the Center for Native Futures in Chicago. Carlson has been awarded numerous grants and fellowships including Creative Capital (2024), United States Artist Visual Art Fellowship (2022), Chicago Artadia Award (2021), and Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant (2017). Her work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the British Museum, the National Gallery of Canada, the Walker Art Center, and the Minneapolis Institute of Art, among others.

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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