



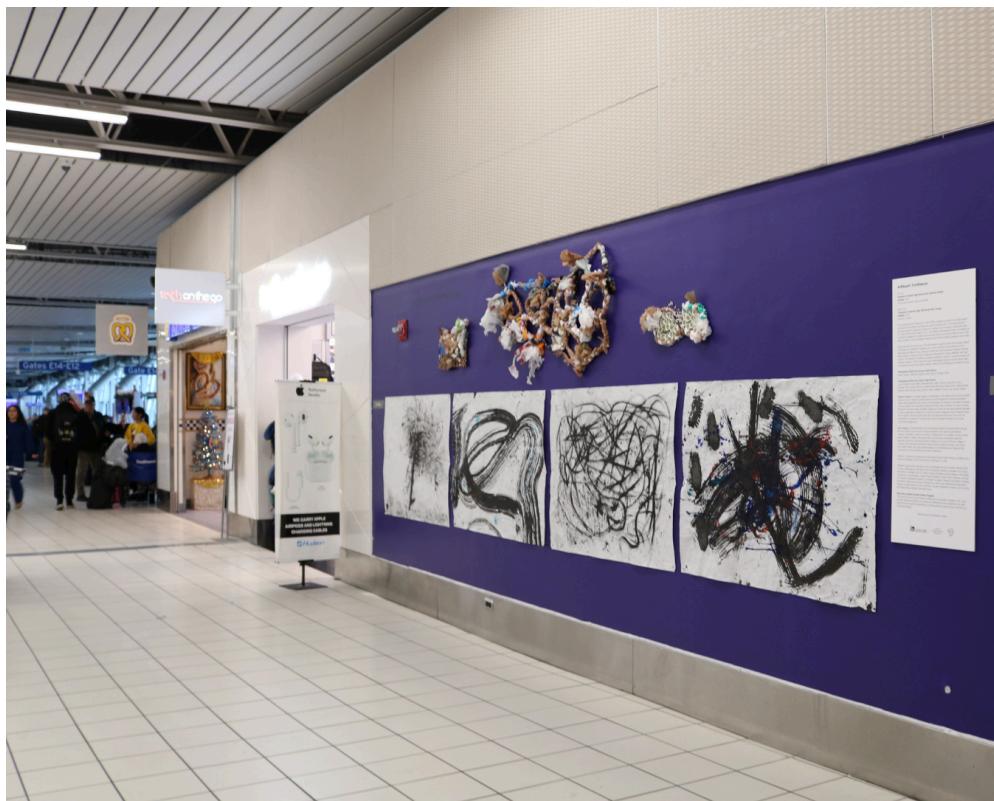
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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***ArtReach: Confluence* travels to Lambert International Airport, showcasing St. Louis waterways through art created by Sumner and Vashon students, on view through June 18, 2026**



ArtReach: Confluence at Lambert International Airport, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, December 18, 2025–June 18, 2026. Photo: CAM Staff.

January 21, 2026 (St. Louis, MO)—Now on view at Lambert International Airport, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents *ArtReach: Confluence*, featuring work by student artists from Sumner and Vashon High Schools created through CAM's 2024–25 ArtReach Partnership. Presented as part of the **Lambert Art and Culture Program**, the exhibition is part of an initiative that seeks to elevate the visitor experience while uplifting regional pride through artwork by local, national, and international artists. The program highlights the unique art and culture of the St. Louis region for more than 16 million travelers and visitors each year. ***ArtReach: Confluence* is installed on the East Wall in Terminal 2 and will remain on view through June 18, 2026.**

Originally developed for CAM's spring/summer 2025 season, the presentation of *ArtReach: Confluence* at Lambert features selected works by student artists from Sumner

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and Vashon High Schools, drawn from a larger body of work created in dialogue with the Museum's 2025 exhibitions *Like Water* and *Make the River Present*. Under the instruction of Resident Teaching Artists (RTAs) Adrienne Outlaw and Dee Levang, participating students explored media and concepts related to the theme of "confluence," examining both the waterways that surround St. Louis and shape the city's identity, and the coming together of multiple artistic disciplines. The resulting works reflect students working in a "flow" state with water-based media, experimenting across mediums, and learning ways to repurpose post-consumer plastic pollution that otherwise may have ended up in the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

RTA Adrienne Outlaw's innovative curriculum centered on the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, with a strong focus on addressing plastic pollution. Highlighting the impact of waste flowing through these rivers from thirty-one states, Outlaw emphasized the potential for repurposing plastic waste to reduce environmental harm. Research shows that plastics account for 75% of the trash carried by the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. In her classroom, Outlaw guided Vashon students in transforming donated post-consumer plastics—such as bags, caps, and fabric—into intricate works of art. Through techniques like braiding, weaving, gluing, and fusing, students integrated graphic elements from the plastics and even (re)branded their work by recontextualizing logos or designing their own, fostering a creative dialogue around sustainability and waste reduction.

When thinking about confluence, the concept of "flow" provided **RTA Dee Levang** a powerful lens for exploring artistic expression. A "flow state" is characterized by a deep sense of focus, a loss of self-consciousness, and a feeling of timelessness, a state that artists and practitioners of any creative enterprise can enter. Levang engaged Sumner students in this concept by introducing them to liquid-based and water soluble media and sharing techniques to help them enter into a state of flow in various aspects of their lives. In an effort to embrace imperfection, surrendering to chance, and the unpredictable nature of creativity, students used ink droppers, spray bottles, plastic cards, and skewers, as well as larger tools like brooms, mops, and squeegees for large-scale abstractions. The process allowed students to tap into their personal creative motivations and connect those with the literal flow of their materials.

ArtReach: Confluence is organized for Lambert International Airport by Miriam Ruiz, Education Manager.

This exhibition is generously supported in part by the Berges Family Foundation; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; The Strive Fund; Ann Y. Sheehan; Clayco; Dana Brown Charitable Trust, U.S. Bank Trustee; Dick Miles and Pat Whitaker; Jenny Birgé; Anonymous; Crawford Taylor Foundation; Norman K. Probstein Charitable Foundation; The Saigh Foundation; The Terry and Phyllis Weiss Children's Education Fund; Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation; Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.; St. Louis Philanthropic Organization; and Stantec.





Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

About the Artists

Participating artists from Sumner High School (*Creating Flow* with RTA Dee Levang): Syniah Henson, Darihanna Jones, Londyn Ranch, and Tre'Sean Smith.

Participating artists from Vashon High School (*Braid it, Weave it, Fuse it: The Confluence of Plastics and Ideas* with RTA Adrienne Outlaw): London Blake, Amynie Bland, Brian Bockette, Elijah Holmes, Demarion Huston, 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

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.

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.

About ArtReach

Since 2017, CAM has partnered with Vashon High School to supplement curriculum by providing art experiences that support the development of healthy, active, and inquisitive minds. In 2021, CAM proudly expanded its ArtReach partnership to include the historic Sumner High School. Through consistent, weekly art classes led by RTAs, young artists are introduced to new creative mediums and encouraged to explore individual interests across various visual artforms.

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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