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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local artist Janie Stamm highlights the importance of preserving queer and natural history in the face of climate change in a new exhibition at CAM presented by Teen Museum Studies, opening March 6, 2026



January 21, 2026 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents an exhibition of work by local artist, Janie Stamm, which has been organized by high school students in CAM's Teen Museum Studies (TMS) program. The 2025 TMS cohort selected Stamm's work for its profound and emotional impact, recognizing its ability to encourage viewers to critically examine crucial contemporary topics such as rising sea levels, queer spaces, and the ways their interwoven histories are impacted by climate change. The resulting exhibition, [***Janie Stamm: Mermaid's Purse***](#), will be on view at CAM from **March 6, 2026–August 9, 2026**.

Born and raised on the edge of the Everglades in Broward County, FL, Janie Stamm is an artist now based in Pacific, MO whose work is deeply inspired by her connection to the queer culture, the ecology of her hometown, and the childhood memories that reside within its landscape. Her practice incorporates embroidery and natural, found objects such as shells, sea sponges, and undersea plants.

Mermaid's Purse draws parallels between how external forces threaten both safe queer spaces and the natural environment. Both queer culture and the environment face significant external threats that present risks to their sustainability. Amidst ongoing anti-LGBTQ legislation and actions, and while similarly climate change initiates habitat destruction and leaves species with no place to live, Stamm makes it possible to understand both topics together. Stamm's work fully illuminates the struggles and hopes for an increasingly colorful, thriving future through nature.

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, April 4

Artist Talk with Janie Stamm, 1:00 pm

Janie Stamm: Mermaid's Purse is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by the 2025 Teen Museum Studies cohort: Tanshire Anderson, Aayushi Bore, Bex Derr, Norah Goetz, Amani Hindmon, Aleah Ingram, Kamille Jefferson, Finn Kanak, YAnne McCray-Nettle, Jaclyn Morton and Jules Sawabini with support from Brandon Barr, Teen and Adult Programs Manager.

Teen Museum Studies is generously supported in part by the Berges Family Foundation; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; The Strive Fund; Dana Brown Charitable Trust, U.S. Bank Trustee; Dick Miles and Pat Whitaker; Jenny Birgé; Ferring Family Foundation; Nancy and Ken Kranzberg; Anonymous; Edward Jones; Norman K. Probstein Charitable Foundation; The Terry and Phyllis Weiss Children's Education Fund; and Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.

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



About the artist

Janie Stamm (b. 1988) is an artist based in Pacific, MO. Born and raised on the edge of the Everglades in Broward County, FL, her work focuses on exploring the links between Floridian ecology and queerness in the face of climate change through fibers and sculpture.

Stamm received an MFA in Visual Art from Washington University in St. Louis, where she received the Dubinsky Scholarship for study at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA and the Frida Kahlo Creative Arts Award. She has received additional awards from the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis, Critical Mass, and The Luminary with support from The Andy Warhol Foundation. She has been an artist in residence at ACRE, the Cite Internationale des Arts, Aquarium Gallery, SAFTA, and Craft Alliance. Her work has been featured in outlets

including *Poetry Magazine* and *CandyFloss*. She regularly exhibits her work throughout the United States and her most recent solo exhibition was in 2025 at the Kranzberg Arts Foundation in St. Louis. Photo: Tiffany Reese.



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

About Teen Museum Studies

Teen Museum Studies (TMS) is a summer intensive internship that engages high school students through direct exposure to museum careers, fosters collaboration and critical thinking, and provides the opportunity to select and work with a St. Louis-based artist to organize an exhibition debuting at CAM the following spring/summer season. For students interested in professional development in the arts beyond artmaking, TMS offers a unique chance to strengthen writing skills, gain hands-on experience collaborating with artists, and build a curatorial skillset. The program culminates in a student-curated exhibition in CAM's Education Galleries, shaped by the creativity and mentorship of local artists.

Previous Teen Museum Studies Artists

2025: Janie Stamm
2024: glynneisha
2023: Ruth Reese
2022: Sukanya Mani
2021: Summer Brooks
2020: Yowshien Kuo
2019: Margaret Keller
2018: Lizzy Martinez
2017: Meredith Foster
2016: Kelley Walker
2015: Cole Lu
2014: Edo Rosenblith

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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Image Caption

Janie Stamm, *Sportsman's Paradise*, 2025. Lightning whelk and sand from Florida, glass beads, felt, trim. Photo courtesy the artist.