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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rolling Out the Red Carpet: CAM and Fashion Group International of St. Louis celebrate fashion as artistic expression at Met Gala Watch Party on May 4



April 20, 2026 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM), in partnership with Fashion Group International of St. Louis (FGI), invites fashion lovers to the [Met Gala Watch Party: The Art of Style](#) on **Monday, May 4, 2026**, from **5:00–9:00 pm** at the Museum. This high-energy evening celebrates the intersection of fashion, art, and community alongside a live projection of the iconic Met Gala red carpet in New York.

This year's event draws inspiration from the 2026 Met Gala theme, *Costume Art*. Guests are encouraged to arrive in their

art-inspired, expressive, and intentional looks, with CAM's current exhibition [And I Saw New Heavens and a New Earth: The Partnership, Art, and Activism of Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore](#) as their muse—a meditation on the performative body, gender, and self-representation. A runway walk for event attendees will recognize outstanding individual interpretations of the *Art of Style* theme.

Guests will enter a world of fashion and art on the red carpet hosted by Psyche Southwell, technology leader and media correspondent and Ted Wight, arts patron and real estate advisor for Dielmann Sotheby's International Realty. A large-screen projection of the 2026 Met Gala red carpet will run throughout the evening, bringing New York's most storied fashion moment to St. Louis in real time.

At 7:00 pm, Jill Manoff, editor-in-chief of *Glossy* and *Modern Retail* will host the guest runway walk to spotlight those who “understood the assignment” for the evening. Judges Meg Geiger, Charitable Giving Advisor at Missouri Historical Society; Brandin Vaughn, fashion designer and Tony Award-winning Costumer; and Retta Tussey, founder and creative director of Retta Jane, will choose the most successful looks. Prizes will include an original painting by Christine Lamp and a gift certificate to Jackman's Fabrics.

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Hours
10–5 Wed
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10–8 Fri
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The evening also marks a milestone: the 90th anniversary of Fashion Group International of St. Louis, which will be celebrated through *Images of Illusion II*, a fashion editorial photo exhibition on display during the event. The top ten submissions were chosen by jurors Faith Berger, founder of Faith Berger Art Consultants; Magdalene Linck, Associate Curator of Clothing and Textiles at Missouri Historical Society; and Dave Gallagher, fashion photographer. During the evening, guests can vote on the Audience Choice Award winner, and the Best of Show Award will be judged by fashion expert and personal stylist Izzy Polanco and CAM's Director of Learning and Engagement Michelle Dezember.

Rounding out the night's fashion programming, Black Creatives in the Lou will present a mannequin display showcasing the work of local designers and inviting guests to experience fashion as a form of community expression and cultural identity.

General admission, including the watch party, red carpet, and exhibitions, is free and open to the public though space is limited. Complimentary light bites will be provided and drinks will be available for purchase. Registration is encouraged; please click [here](#) to register.

For an elevated experience, FGI is offering limited VIP tickets which include valet, access to the private VIP reception area with food, a complimentary drink ticket, priority seating at the red carpet, a guided tour of CAM's spring/summer exhibitions led by Michelle Dezember, and a limited-edition bracelet. VIP tickets are \$105 each, which includes a processing fee; purchase VIP tickets [here](#).

This event is presented by Fashion Group International of St. Louis and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Any proceeds from the event will contribute to the *Fashion Group International St. Louis Rising Star Grant Fund* to support St. Louis fashion creatives.



Event Details

What: [Met Gala Watch Party: The Art of Style](#)

When: Monday, May 4, 2026

Time: 5:00 pm–9:00 pm

Where: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, 3750 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

Admission: Free; VIP tickets \$105

Schedule

5:00 pm: Doors open for viewing exhibitions; 2026 Met Gala red carpet livestream begins

6:00 pm: VIP Reception

6:30 pm: Guided tour for VIP ticketholders

7:00 pm: Guest runway walk

7:45 pm: Awards ceremony



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About FGI Saint Louis

The St. Louis Region of Fashion Group International (FGISTL) was founded in 1936, by a group of female fashion leaders as an industry forum for women's career advancement, only eight years after the FGI global headquarters in New York was established. FGI now has chapters worldwide and a roster of over 5,000 active members in fashion and related design sectors including apparel, accessories, beauty, retail and lifestyle. Today, we remain dedicated to supporting fashion professionals at every level, from startup founders to seasoned corporate professionals. By providing access, education, and connection, FGI seeks to spark creativity, fuel innovation, and advance economic growth of the business of fashion in St. Louis & beyond. Vital benefits offered to FGI members include ongoing professional development opportunities, forums for discussion and networking, market insights, mentorship opportunities with industry leaders, business directories and resources, and high-profile event platforms for professional recognition.

About *And I Saw New Heavens and a New Earth: The Partnership, Art, and Activism of Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore*

This exhibition presents an exploration of Claude Cahun (1894-1954, Nantes, France) and Marcel Moore (1892-1972, Nantes, France), two visionary, gender-non-conforming artists and activists of the 20th century who lived their values, even in the face of persecution and repression under Nazi-occupied Europe. Known for their work early in the Surrealist movement, they approached their work and way of life as a carefully considered form of resistance. Combining photographs, historical documents, drawings, and ephemera—with experimental storytelling by writer and oral historian, Svetlana Kitto—*And I Saw New Heavens and a New Earth* celebrates the creative output, enduring partnership, and risk-taking political commitments of these two artists.

And I Saw New Heavens and a New Earth: The Partnership, Art, and Activism of Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Dean Daderko, Ferring Foundation Chief Curator, and Svetlana Kitto, writer and oral historian, with support from Grace Early, Exhibitions Assistant. The exhibition is on view through August 8, 2026.

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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