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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neeka Allsup embraces self discovery through custom interactive tarot cards in a new Teen Museum Studies exhibition at CAM, opening March 5, 2027



October 20, 2026 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents an exhibition of work by local artist, Neeka Allsup, organized by high school students in CAM's Teen Museum Studies (TMS) program. Through her surrealist-style landscape paintings, Allsup focuses on themes of self discovery and personal reflection—an aspect of her work that connected with the 2026 TMS cohort. The resulting exhibition, *Infinite Landscapes*, will be on view at CAM from **March 5–August 15, 2027**.

Allsup grew up woodworking, painting, and selling her pieces in the children's art gallery of her parents' toy shop. Her oil-on-canvas works are deeply inspired by her interests in psychology, tarot cards, and dream analysis. This imbues her art with a personal, mysterious component that explores symbolism within the subconscious.

Infinite Landscapes will feature a selection of new paintings, inviting viewers to incorporate their unique personalities into the artwork through custom interactive tarot cards allowing for hundreds of thousands of permutations. To create one of her paintings, she worked with TMS students to develop the theme and a list of possible objects captured within the painting.

Allsup's idea for this exhibition is to create a dream-like landscape that serves as a welcoming environment for introspection in the gallery, a space she feels is limited by our fast-paced modern world—where social media distracts us with the carefully-curated lives of others. Through her work, Allsup encourages visitors to look inward and find clarity in the surreal, grounding themselves in their own identities and aspirations.

Neeka Allsup: Infinite Landscapes is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by the 2026 Teen Museum Studies cohort: Vajra Binion-Anderson, Claire Eltoft, Ivy Kanak, Estella Meyr, Suraq Sahed, Sophia Samaki, Lennon Sharp, Geronimo Thomas,



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Wyatt Valleroy, Khloe Wallace, Phoenix Whetstone and Jacob Williams with support from Brandon Barr, Teen and Adult Programs Manager.

Teen Museum Studies is generously supported in part by Jeanne and Rex A. Sinquefield; The Terry and Phyllis Weiss Youth Education Fund; The Strive Fund; Anonymous; Crawford Taylor Foundation; Norman K. Probststein Charitable Foundation; and The Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation.

CAM will host a press preview on March 5, 2027. For press inquiries, including access to the preview or interview opportunities with the artist, contact Alexia Brown at abrown@camstl.org.

Related Events

Friday, March 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

Saturday, March 13, 2027

Artist Talk with Neeka Allsup, 2:00 pm

About the Artist



Neeka Allsup (b. 1988, Austin, TX) was born in the back of a toy store to two hippies that made toys from wood—her dad would cut the shapes her mother would paint. Neeka grew up woodworking, painting and selling her pieces even at a young age in the children's art gallery in the toy store. Her oil paintings and murals are colorful, playful, surreal, and fun.

Allsup received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in painting and foundry. In 2017, she moved to St. Louis where she lives with her husband and baby. In addition to rehabbing properties and painting murals with her husband, Allsup teaches

sustainable oil painting and soldering classes at Perrenial, a local creative reuse organization.

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: glyneisha
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

The Abyss: "Unknown - Deep - Natural". 48x36 inches. Oil on hand stretched canvas. Photo: Courtesy the artist.



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