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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate World AIDS Day with Day With(out) Art featuring film screenings and a community conversation on December 3



Micaela Cyrino, *How to project your voice without causing an earthquake*, 2026. Commissioned by Visual AIDS for *seeds in a dying colony*.

November 19, 2026 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis observes World AIDS Day with **Day With(out) Art** on Thursday, December 3. Presented in partnership with Visual AIDS, the day centers on *seeds in a dying colony*, this year's program of four newly commissioned short films. Made by artists working across Tanzania, Brazil, Spain, Morocco, and France, the films look at how structures organized around abandonment and early death sever people from memory, history, and cultural continuity.

Day With(out) Art is a national program that originated in 1989 on World AIDS Day to honor the lives and artistic contributions of those lost to the AIDS crisis. Since 2014, Visual AIDS has commissioned new video works and partnered with hundreds of arts and community organizations to present screenings that continue to de-stigmatize HIV, encourage care for those living with HIV, and support ongoing advocacy and education.

Beginning at 10:00 am, a selection of short video works commissioned by Visual AIDS will be presented on a loop at CAM for drop-in viewing in a dedicated screening space until 7:00 pm, as well as a portion of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. At 5:00 pm, an evening gathering opens with remarks from Lawrence Hudson-Lewis, Director of Prevention at Project ARK, and Crystal Ellis, owner of Crystallized Sexuality, LLC, followed by a full

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screening of the program and a Q&A. Alongside prompts about whose health gets protected and what traditions offer people facing stigma, a response wall brings the conversation home, asking visitors what they know or want to know about how HIV shows up in St. Louis.

The program takes its title from psychiatrist and political philosopher Frantz Fanon, whose writing on colonial violence has helped some AIDS historians examine how global health systems decide who receives care. Moving through fractured histories and landscapes marked by extraction, the films trace how power shapes the body and memory in the afterlives of colonialism and the ongoing HIV epidemic, turning to ancestral knowledge, movement, ritual, and beauty as ways to reclaim the self and choose life under conditions built to restrict it.

Day With(out) Art is presented in partnership with Visual AIDS. This event is free and open to all; advance registration is encouraged at camstl.org.

Accessibility and Content Notes

As this is a program centering harm reduction it will contain depictions of sexual activity and drug use. This event takes place on zoom. Registered users will receive a link. To request an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter for this event, please contact programs@camstl.org with as much prior notice possible to ensure availability.

Event Details

What: Day With(out) Art Film Screenings
When: Thursday, December 3, 2026
Drop-in screenings: 10:00 am–7:00 pm
Evening program: 5:00–7:00 pm
Where: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (3750 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108)
Cost: Free

Schedule

/ 10:00 am: Drop-in screening
/ 5:00 pm: Galleries open; snacks and drinks [complimentary / available for purchase]
/ 5:30 pm: Welcome remarks from Lawrence Hudson-Lewis (Director of Prevention, Project ARK) and Crystal Ellis (owner of Crystallized Sexuality, LLC), followed by screening of *seeds in a dying colony*
/ 6:30 pm: Q&A

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About the Videos

Edgar Hudson Mdendu, *There is an Elephant in the Room* (Tanzania)

A young person flees home after a life-altering discovery, carrying the weight of things that cannot be said out loud. He encounters an activist fighting to be heard and a care worker sustaining others through daily acts of survival. Through dance and movement, the film offers a quiet story of survival, exile, and return, asking what it takes to face the elephant that everyone knows is there.

Bruna Kury and Matheus Mello, *Viral Borders: Geopolitics of a Pandemic* (Brazil/Spain)

A visual manifesto that transforms the HIV virus into a mirror of empire, where data, propaganda, and flesh collide. Through a frenetic digital collage, the film exposes the biopolitical machinery that controls the body and weaponizes borders against life itself.

Sido Lansari, *Forevermore* (Morocco/France)

Forevermore weaves together archival echoes, poetic fragments, and testimonies of Arab queer lives touched by HIV, spanning generations and geographies. Through the voices of the dead and the living, the film transforms silenced histories into a collective act of remembrance and resistance.

Micaela Cyrino, *How to project your voice without causing an earthquake* (Brazil)

Carolina lives alone in an apartment on the outskirts of São Paulo. Every morning she faces the city's frenetic pace during the long commute from her home to work. In her thoughts, her grandmother's wisdom always returns; in her headphones, it's always the same rap. In her bag, she carries the book of recipes, baths, and blessings she inherited from her grandmother and the desire to end the day well.

Each artist was mentored through production by a member of this year's selection jury: Amil Shivji, Hiura Fernandes, Ésery Mondesir, and J Triangular. For more information, visit visualaids.org.

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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