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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Large-scale video by The Propeller Group on Museum's facade
On view January 15–April 3, 2016**



The Propeller Group, *A Universe of Collisions*, 2015. Fragments of AK-47 and M16 bullets, ballistics gel. Courtesy the artist and James Cohan Gallery, New York.

November 19, 2015 (St. Louis, MO) – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents the first public art project by The Propeller Group as the latest installment of its *Street Views* series of video works projected on CAM's sixty-foot-wide facade. Part of the group's recent multi-faceted work *A Universe of Collisions*, produced by Grand City Arts in Kansas City, the video is on view dusk to midnight every night from January 15 through April 3, 2016.

A multidisciplinary collective made up of artists Phunam Thuc Ha, Tuan Andrew Nguyen, and Matt Lucero, The Propeller Group uses sophisticated digital tools to explore cultural and political phenomena. The group often crosses over into the commercial spheres of video production and even advertising, engaging the viral potential of mass media and pop culture to address sociopolitical issues in impactful ways. Recent projects have explored the musical and ritualistic affinities between Vietnamese funeral traditions and New Orleans second line processions, the celebrity status surrounding memorial images of Russian dictator Vladimir Lenin, and a commercial advertising campaign for the contemporary Communist Party.

Inspired by an artifact found on a Civil War battlefield of two bullets that had collided mid-air, the group sought to re-create this unlikely fusion of enemy weaponry in their video on view at CAM. Transposing this scenario to the contemporary analogy of the Vietnam War and the battle between communism and democracy, the video depicts the moment of impact when bullets from a Russian AK-47 and an American M16 crash into each other. The action is captured on high-speed cameras and slowed down to a meditative pace, dwelling on the aftermath of the collision. Appearing almost as an abstract cosmos, the lingering debris acts as a poetic metaphor for a larger history of war and the tension between opposing political ideologies. While a

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technological marvel, the project nonetheless raises larger timely questions about the relentless cycle of violence that is continually enacted not only between nations on a geopolitical stage, but also closer to home in our neighborhoods and schools.

The Propeller Group (established in 2006) comprises artists Phunam Thuc Ha (b. 1974, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam), Tuan Andrew Nguyen (b. 1976, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam), and Matt Lucero (b. 1976, Upland, California), who live and work between Ho Chi Minh City and Los Angeles. Recent solo exhibitions include Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, and Grand Arts, Kansas City, Missouri (both 2015). The group's work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions including at the 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2015); Prospect.3 New Orleans (2014); Guggenheim Museum, New York (2013), Made in L.A. 2012, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2012), and the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (2012). Their works is in the permanent collections of such institutions as the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Special thanks to James Cohan Gallery, New York.

Street Views: The Propeller Group is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Kelly Shindler, Associate Curator.

Related Events

Press & Patron Preview: Spring Exhibitions

Friday, January 15, 10:00 am
Join exhibiting artists and CAM curators for an exclusive introduction to the exhibitions. RSVP to Ida McCall at 314.535.0770 x311 or imccall@camstl.org.

Opening Night: Spring Exhibitions

Friday, January 15
Member Preview: 6:00 pm
Public Reception: 7:00–9:00 pm

Also On View this Spring

January 15–April 3, 2016

Lisa Yuskavage: The Brood

Arcangelo Sassolino: Not Human

Tala Madani

Peter Sutherland: Forests and Fires

Arlene Shechet: Urgent Matter

Ned Vena: Paintings Without Borders 2

ArtReach: Entwined

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents, supports, and celebrates the art of our time. It is the premier museum in St. Louis dedicated to contemporary art. Focused on a dynamic array of changing exhibitions, CAM provides a thought-provoking program that reflects and contributes to the global cultural landscape. Through the diverse perspectives offered in its exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives, CAM actively engages a range of audiences to challenge their perceptions. It is a site for discovery, a gathering place in which to experience and enjoy contemporary visual culture. CAM is located in Grand Center, a world-class arts and entertainment district in the heart of St. Louis.



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