

# St. Louis

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CULTURE / VISUAL ARTS /

## Spring Arts Guide 2021: Six art exhibits illuminate the past, present, and future

Many of the exhibitions featured this year address urgent national and global issues.

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BY ALICE NGUYEN    MARCH 22, 2021    8:00 AM

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DANA LEVY, CAMPBELL HOUSE PROJECT, 2019.

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How does art speak to this moment in history? And in a time of immense uncertainty, unrest, and divisions, why make it? These are some of the questions that St. Louis artists and museum curators are grappling with. Many of the exhibitions featured this year address urgent national and global issues. Some look back at the past, at the histories we share and those we've forgotten. Others speak to the human condition, examining the body, pleasure, emotions, and intimacy. Here, a sampling of works from them.

1. Dana Levy makes video and installation art about place and displacement. [“Currents 119: Dana Levy”](#) at the Saint Louis Art Museum combines dynamic images and projections with cultural artifacts from St. Louis buildings and communities (shown here is the Campbell House Museum, downtown). Taken together, they examine the way humans inhabit and transform architecture, history, and nature. “Currents 119” is on display through August 15.



MARINA ZURKOW, MESOCOSM (WINK, TX), 2012. LOAN COURTESY OF THE THOMA FOUNDATION, CHICAGO.

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2. In Laumeier Sculpture Park’s [“The Future Is Present: Art and Global Change,”](#) artists combine art with

technology to navigate critical issues related to global climate change and environmental crises. Among them is Marina Zurkow's animated work *Mesocosm*, inspired by her visit to the sinkhole Wink Sink 2. It includes depictions of floating trash, industrial waste, and polluted skies that warn of a future environmental catastrophe. "The Future Is Present" is on display through May 9.



CHLOË BASS (*EXHIBITION VIEW*), 2019. PHOTOGRAPHY BY SAVONNE ANDERSON.

3. Chloë Bass' sculpture *I want to believe that desires can be different without being threatening* is part of her exhibition "[Chloë Bass: Wayfinding](#)," a set of 20 site-specific sculptures that explore intimacy and human emotions. Set in the Pulitzer's outdoor spaces, the sculptures invite reflections and self-explorations from visitors and passersby. "Wayfinding" is on display April 17–October 31.