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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAM PRESENTS NEW SITE-SPECIFIC WORK BY RENOWNED ARTIST
KERRY JAMES MARSHALL
On view May 24–July 7, 2013**



Kerry James Marshall, *Black Artist (Studio View)*, 2002. Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

April 23, 2013 (St. Louis, MO) – This summer, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents a project by Kerry James Marshall—regarded as one of the most important American artists of the past twenty years—as part of its ongoing Front Room series. Based in Chicago, Marshall is known for work in a broad range of media informed by African-American life and history, popular culture, and art history. On view May 24 through July 7, 2013, his project at CAM will be a new, multidimensional installation specifically created for CAM's Front Room space. It is scheduled to coincide with the June 2013 opening of the Saint Louis Art Museum's new East Building expansion, where one of Marshall's most significant works, *Watts 1963* (1995), will be on view.

Marshall's project at CAM examines ideas about scientific transformations of nature as they apply to race and humanity. Various components of the installation—trellis structures, floral forms, a tile wall, and a stone path—suggest a garden and provide a framework for other elements, including two photographs and two ornate mirrors engraved with text. The text on the mirrors is from a letter sent by Thomas Jefferson in 1815 to Francis C. Gray, a lawyer and poet, elaborating on a proposed scientific process by which an African American and a white American could be progressively cross-bred to produce a white American citizen. Marshall's use of this provocative text creates a complex relationship between his man-made garden and images of urban uses of and encroachments upon nature, creating links between botanical and philosophical ideas of hybridity.

Kerry James Marshall (b. 1955, Birmingham, Alabama) lives and works in Chicago. Later this year, his work will be the subject of a major solo exhibition at the Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, Belgium, and the exhibition *In the Tower: Kerry James Marshall*, at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. Marshall is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, an NEA Visual Art Fellowship, and many other awards. He has had previous solo exhibitions at the Vienna Secession (2012); the Vancouver Art Gallery (2010); the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (2008); the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2003); and the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago (1998).

RELATED PROGRAMS

Artist Talk: Kerry James Marshall

Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 PM

Free and open to the public.

Press Preview: Summer Exhibitions

Friday, May 24, 10:00 AM

Join exhibiting artists and CAM curators for a walk-through of the exhibitions before. RSVP to Ida McCall at 314.535.0770 x311 or imccall@camstl.org.

Opening Night: Summer Exhibitions

Friday, May 24

Patron Preview: 5:30 PM

Member Preview: 6:00 PM

Public Reception: 7:00–9:00 PM

Curatorial Tour

Saturday, June 15, 11:00 AM

Free and open to the public.

ALSO ON VIEW THIS SUMMER

Lari Pittman: A Decorated Chronology

May 24–August 11, 2013

Mika Taanila: Tomorrow's New Dawn

May 24–August 11, 2013

Josh Faught: Snacks, Supports, and Something to Rally Around

July 10–August 11, 2013

About the Front Room

Running parallel to the Main Galleries, the Front Room operates at a different rhythm, featuring focused exhibitions of work by emerging and well-known artists, each lasting just a few weeks at a time.

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.

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Hours: 11-6 Wed / 11-9 Thu & Fri / 10-5 Sat & Sun

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