

MEDIA ALERT

## Pulitzer Arts Foundation Announces Fall 2023 Exhibitions

- *Sarah Crowner: Around Orange*
- *Urban Archaeology: Lost Buildings of St. Louis*

Sep 8, 2023–Feb 4, 2024

### What

The Pulitzer Arts Foundation presents two exhibitions that will reference, in different ways, the architectural identity of St. Louis: three new commissions by artist Sarah Crowner, and an exhibition of architectural fragments and archival holdings from the National Building Arts Center that will look at the architectural history of the St. Louis region.

### Exhibitions

#### *Sarah Crowner: Around Orange*

Bold abstraction, intense color, and a handmade sensibility are signatures of the New York-based artist Sarah Crowner (b. 1974), who brings these elements to the Pulitzer this fall. While Crowner primarily works as an abstract painter, she blends approaches from ceramics, architecture, and performance into her practice. In three new site-specific artworks,

Crowner pays homage to the exceptional architecture of the Pulitzer's Tadao Ando building and the vision of Ellsworth Kelly, whose masterly wall sculpture, *Blue Black*, is a highlight of the museum's collection.



Crowner is creating a seventy-five-foot-long painting, sewn together from cut sections of canvas for the main gallery of the museum. The scale of the painting responds to the museum's architecture, wrapping around two of the gallery's ample walls, while the height is a direct index of the six-foot width of *Blue Black*. The painting will be complemented by a glazed terracotta mural of the same height in the

museum's entrance courtyard. Here the red-orange hues of the tile will interact with the concrete that has become synonymous with Ando's architecture.

In the museum's entrance gallery, Crouner is producing an expansive birch wood platform alongside a focused selection of early works by Kelly. Museum visitors are invited to walk or move upon the platform, which will curve through the space, taking rounded forms in Kelly's compositions as inspiration. The installation will transform the physical character of the gallery while the platform acts as a stage for experiencing Kelly's work.

Sarah Crouner's work is represented in major institutional collections across the world and has been exhibited widely, most recently as part of the 57<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Carnegie International at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts; The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas; Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico, and Lina Bo Bardi's Casa de Vidro, São Paulo, Brazil.

*Sarah Crouner: Around Orange* is curated by Stephanie Weissberg, Curator at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation.

### *Urban Archaeology: Lost Buildings of St. Louis*

A pioneering collaboration between the Pulitzer and the National Building Arts Center in Sauget, Illinois, *Urban Archaeology* brings together salvaged architectural elements from landmark buildings, residential homes, and neighborhood institutions built in St. Louis between 1840 and 1950. The artifacts on display represent important histories of material innovation, labor, and the everyday lives of the people who inhabit the city.



Housing an extensive archival collection and library, the National Building Arts Center is the nation's largest repository of building artifacts. The breadth of the Center's holdings makes possible the pairing of archival materials with architectural fragments from the St. Louis area, juxtapositions that illuminate the astounding degree of material innovation that local builders brought to simple brick and terracotta. In addition to tracing the city's storied history of material innovation, the Center's collection is also an important

resource for understanding twentieth century urban development and demolition practices. *Urban Archaeology* will uncover the ways these histories intersect with dynamics of race, class, and power which continue to shape the built environment and daily life today.

*Urban Archaeology* is organized by the National Building Arts Center in collaboration with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. It is curated by Michael R. Allen, Director, National Building Arts Center with Stephanie Weissberg, Curator, Pulitzer Arts Foundation.

### When

**September 8, 2023–February 4, 2024**

## Where

Pulitzer Arts Foundation  
3716 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108

## Admission

Free

## Organization

Organized by the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, *Sarah Crowner: Around Orange* is curated by Stephanie Weissberg, Curator at the Pulitzer, and *Urban Archaeology: Lost Buildings of St. Louis* is curated by Michael R. Allen, Director, National Building Arts Center with Stephanie Weissberg, Curator at the Pulitzer.

## About the Pulitzer

Located in the heart of St. Louis, the Pulitzer Arts Foundation presents art from around the world in its celebrated Tadao Ando-designed building and surrounding neighborhood. Exhibitions include both contemporary and historic art and are complemented by a wide range of free public programs, including music, literary arts, dance, wellness, and cultural discussions. Founded in 2001, the Pulitzer is a place where ideas are freely explored, new art exhibited, and historic work reimaged.

In addition to the museum, the Pulitzer has several outdoor spaces, including Park-Like—a native plant rain garden, the Spring Church—an open-air pavilion and beloved landmark, and the Tree Grove—a shady picnic spot. The museum is open Thursday through Sunday, 10am–5pm, with evening hours until 8pm on Friday. The outdoor campus is open daily, sunrise to sunset. Admission is free. For more information, visit [pulitzerarts.org](https://pulitzerarts.org) or on social media @pulitzerarts.

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### Images

Sarah Crowner, Not yet titled, 2023. 72 x 144 in (182.88 x 365.76 cm). Photography by Charles Benton, © Sarah Crowner

Unglazed terra cotta panels on display at the National Building Arts Center, 2021. Collection of the National Building Arts Center