



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COCA ANNOUNCES CURATOR-IN-RESIDENCE**

*Key Addition Strengthens Visual Arts Program*



(ST. LOUIS, MO) – COCA-Center of Creative Arts announced that Yvonne Osei has joined the organization as Curator-In-Residence to oversee exhibitions and public programs for the Millstone Gallery at COCA.

COCA's residency is intended to extend the organization's longstanding commitment to nurturing and supporting local artists and the art community. In addition to creating a pipeline for the profession, the residency will help COCA advance its vision for a robust visual arts platform and programming across various artistic disciplines.

In this role, Osei will be encouraged to employ innovative, experimental and curatorial approaches as well as seek opportunities for community collaboration and engagement.

"It's an exciting time to be a part of COCA's artistic team, especially with the organization's expansion project in the works," says Osei. "I

have admired COCA's efforts to create a sincere community-based creative space, and look forward to expanding that core value in its visual arts program. My interest is to encourage cross disciplinary initiatives where visual arts intersect with COCA's robust theatrical programs, while harnessing its potential."

Osei's first task is to oversee *Architecture in Focus*, a juried exhibition featuring works by young and emerging artists, alongside selected works by professionals. The exhibition will display a wide range of architectural interpretations through the medium of photography. The exhibition draws direct inspiration from COCA's historic mid-century modernist building and celebrates the ingenuity of its designer Erich Mendelsohn. Designed by Erich Mendelsohn as the B'nai Amoona Synagogue, the building was the storied architect's first American project, and has been COCA's home since 1986.

Osei is currently an Adjunct Professor at Webster University and recently completed the 2016-17 Romare Bearden Graduate Minority Fellowship at the Saint Louis Art Museum. In addition to curatorial experience, she is an accomplished visual and performance artist. Her work is represented by Bruno David Gallery in St. Louis. As the recipient of the 2017 Kranzberg Exhibition Series, her most recent solo exhibition, "Tailored Landscapes" is currently on display at Laumeier Sculpture Park through March 2018.

Osei holds an MFA in Visual Arts from Washington University, a BFA with a concentration in Graphic Design and a BA with a concentration in International Studies, both from Webster University, and is currently pursuing an MS in Fashion Business and Entrepreneurship from Lindenwood University.

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### **ABOUT COCA**

Founded in 1986, COCA is the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country and a national leader in innovative arts education. With a mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA serves 50,000 people of all ages and skill levels, from enthusiastic amateurs to emerging professionals — all taught by a faculty of distinguished arts educators. We provide meaningful arts experiences in our own studios, gallery and theatres as well as in schools, community centers and corporate settings in order to build a vibrant St. Louis that is creative, connected and inclusive. To ensure diversity and inclusion in all of our programs we are committed to eliminating economic and social barriers to participation in the arts.