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ETERNAL JUNGLE BY JASMINE RASKAS OPENS OCTOBER 27 IN THE MILLSTONE GALLERY AT COCA

ST. LOUIS (October 25, 2023)—[*Eternal Jungle*](#), an immersive exhibition by St. Louis-based artist Jasmine Raskas, opens in the [Millstone Gallery](#) at COCA on Friday, October 27 at 6:00 p.m. This exhibition investigates feelings of awe, wonder, and ethereal delight. *Eternal Jungle* runs October 27–December 10, 2023.

Raskas works with paint, sculpture, and installation. Her art explores sentience and organic growth in the context of world-building. Raskas's work has been shown in galleries across the region, including at The Foundry Art Centre, St. Louis Artists' Guild, Art Saint Louis, and more. Her awards include grants from The Luminary's Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Regional Arts Commission in St. Louis.

WHAT: *Eternal Jungle* by Jasmine Raskas is an immersive installation including sculpture, painting, light, sound, and touch. The goal of this installation is to explore sentience and question our relationship to non-animal forms of life (both real and imagined). In seeking to understand the point at which objects and systems are labeled as intelligent, conscious, or alive, we can together explore our ability to feel empathy and connectedness toward our environment. This exhibit investigates feelings of awe, wonder, and ethereal delight. Strange yet familiar, it is an embrace of play and an experience of otherworldly desires.

Additional educational programming for *Eternal Jungle* includes a *Create Your Own Sentient Creature* workshop for youths, ages 6–12, on November 18. In the workshop, the artist guides students through the process of character creation.

WHEN: The exhibition is free and open to the public October 27–December 10, 2023, during COCA's regularly scheduled business hours.

Eternal Jungle Opening Night Reception is Friday, October 27 from 6:00–8:00 p.m., with a member preview at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Millstone Gallery at COCA
6880 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63130

AVAILABLE INTERVIEWS: Karla Aguilar, COCA Curator-in-Residence
Jasmine Raskas, Artist

WEBSITE: cocastl.org/calendar/eternal-jungle/

SUPPORTERS: The Millstone Gallery is made possible by The Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation, Bernoudy Foundation, and The Millstone Foundation. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Millstone Gallery is free and open to the public. Since 2008, the Millstone Gallery has brought the community together to share and experience contemporary art, make personal connections to the work, and gain a greater understanding of the artistic process.

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ABOUT COCA

COCA's mission is to *enrich lives and build community through the arts*. With a commitment to equity and access, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages from all backgrounds. One of the most diverse cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves more than 50,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from more than 200 zip codes across the St. Louis region every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of more than 200 artists at the heart of their work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and onsite at its campus in University City.

ABOUT IMLS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage. To learn more, visit imls.gov.