



T H E
S H E L D O N
Arts Without Borders

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2022

THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES ANNOUNCES SPRING 2022 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

ST. LOUIS - The Sheldon Art Galleries announces the Spring 2022 exhibition schedule, with a public opening **Friday, March 4, 2022 from 5-8 p.m. Galleries are open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. Exhibits run through May 7, 2022.** Gallery hours are Tuesdays – Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information, visit TheSheldon.org or call 314-533-9900. More information about each individual exhibit available upon request.

The Sheldon continues to monitor the regulations and recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the City of St. Louis regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. **In accordance with City of St. Louis guidelines, we require everyone over the age of 5 wear a mask.** For an updated list of health and safety guidelines for concerts and gallery exhibits please visit <https://www.thesheldon.org/covid-updates/>.

Wallace Herndon Smith - *Traveling Through Europe* *Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists*

The exhibit features oil paintings and photographs by Wallace Herndon Smith, painted from the 1930s through the 1970s, and focuses on his travels through Europe. Smith was always a painter with traditional sensibilities and shunned abstract expressionism, however, his works show a keen interest for underlying abstract concepts like structure, composition and color relationships. All works are from the collection of The Bellwether Foundation, unless otherwise noted.

Jason Ackman - *Navigating Borders* *Gallery of Music*

Artist Jason Ackman is intrigued by the symbolic meaning that can be found in the most ordinary, outdated and utilitarian objects. These objects, rich with meaning and significance, have many times outlived their usefulness or purpose. Their place as forgotten objects allows us to re-imagine them - we are able to see their metaphorical potential because we are able to distance ourselves from their original intent or purpose. Ackman's work explores these alternative meanings as they relate to the concepts of transition and discernment. His studio practice over the past five years has focused on the use of reclaimed lumber as a sculptural medium.

MORE...

Mel Watkin - *Revolving*
Gallery of Music

Revolving is a 46-foot-long drawing of a life-size falling tree that cycles through the seasons of the year before returning to the earth. Mel Watkin explores the dichotomous forces of nature through drawings of trees surrounding her old farmhouse in rural Southern Illinois. While the drawings are realistically rendered, they are actually altered compilations of different species. Recently, her rural area lost over 3,000 trees in a *derecho*, leaving a massive visual, emotional and environmental gap. For several years, replicating the huge scale of the lost trees has been a major factor in her work.. **Free Gallery Talk with Mel Watkin: Friday, May 6, Starting at The Gallery at The Kranzberg at 6 p.m. followed by Watkin talking about her exhibit, *Revolving*, with Q&A and cocktails at The Sheldon at 7 p.m.**

Jerry Monteith - *Attractors*
Gallery of Photography

Jerry Monteith's *Attractors* series uses the fishing fly as a paradigm object to portray strange, insect-like creatures. The figures pay homage to the incredible diversity of insect life, which we typically regard as an inconvenience at best. While "their kind" is said to represent 90 percent of the diversity of life on our planet, "our kind" typically ignores them. This exhibit embodies Monteith's appreciation of the small things in life and in art.

Jamie Kreher - *Variant*
Gallery of Photography

During the pandemic, artist Jamie Kreher created photographs of her local environment as a means of escapism and to achieve a sense of freedom by being out in open spaces. Printed at postcard size and acting as artist documentation, Kreher has also inverted the colors and tones of her images and uses other image variances to create an uncanny visual quality. This suggests an "upside down," or another world, that may not be visible to the naked eye, but conveys anxiety about the pandemic and its evolving variants. At the same time, the works imply a sense of foreboding due to environmental damage and climate change.

Sheldon Helfman – *Out of the Ordinary*
Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture

Sheldon Helfman studies imperfections in the urban environment. After choosing a view, in a conscious attempt at objectivity and restraint, Helfman will edit very little, as his watercolor process is methodical enough to provide a careful rendering of complex light patterns. A New York City native, Helfman studied at Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and later earned an M.F.A in painting at Yale School of Art. He taught drawing, design and color theory at Washington University School of Architecture in St. Louis.

Co-sponsored by Kristen Peterson and Ryan Easley.

SIUE B.F.A. Exhibit
AT&T Gallery of Children's Art

A group exhibit featuring recent work by six graduating students from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's (SIUE) art department, the works featured include printmaking, ceramics and painting. At SIUE, Bachelor of Fine Arts students prepare to be lifelong practitioners of the studio arts by engaging in close mentoring relationships with faculty, while developing independent bodies of work that demonstrate professional competencies on conceptual, technical and visual levels. This exhibit it is the culmination of their undergraduate studies.

MORE...

Jessica Thornton – (In)secure Identities
Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery

Jessica Thornton’s recent paintings focus on the layered issues of race, privilege and hybridity. Influenced by her mixed-race identity, her work explores a conflict of lineage and perspective in an unidentified other space. These unclaimed worlds are an attempt to renegotiate aspects of ownership and what she sees as the “ethnic authentic.”
Free Gallery Talk with Jessica Thornton: Saturday, March 5, at 11 a.m.

Ben Bradshaw – Inner-Whorled
Ann Lee and Wilfred Konneker Gallery

Ben Bradshaw is a multimedia artist whose myriad processes have their foundation in natural growth. Drawing, animation, sculpture, textiles, ceramics and installation all balance between intuitive generation and sustainable structure. As a writer, Bradshaw has a deep reverence for the complex relationships between human knowledge and culture as it spreads through time and space. His drawings (in all materials) reflect a structure that mirrors the way the brain develops its form and function.

Donna Moore, Guen Montgomery and Emily Bivens - Trapping
Lucy and Stanley Lopata Sculpture Garden

This collaborative work investigates the ability of objects to hold supposedly dispelled narratives of the past and the vestiges of oppression that are ensnared in the seduction of nostalgia. Hand-made plastic clothing is created from vintage dress patterns utilizing recycled table cloths, construction cloth, and camo clothes with screen-printed, idealized images of flowers and birds that have met an untimely death. The vacuum-sealed bags full of bones, feathers, chicken poop and vintage agricultural utensils form the prefilled pockets. An antenna-like clothesline holds the dresses and allows them to flap in the wind, momentarily reanimating the dead birds and giving them an impossible last flight.

Financial Assistance to the Galleries are provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency and by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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