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PHOTOS BY LOU BOPP ILLUMINATE MISSISSIPPI BLUES CULTURE

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Lou Bopp : Portraits of the Blues* October 4- December 28, 2013 in the History of Jazz Gallery. Join us for an opening reception on Friday, October 4, 2013 from 5 – 7 p.m.; Galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center, a monthly event in which galleries and museums in Grand Center are open late. Admission is free. **The exhibition is made possible in part by David Capes Photography, LLC; Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg and Karen and Larry Kotner.**



Since 2008, Lou Bopp has made regular trips to Mississippi to record the end of an era of blues musicians who have made important contributions to this classic American musical genre. To date, he has made compelling portraits of about 70 of these artists. In this work, he has also recorded the juke joints, roadhouses and the culture that has supported the music. Bopp's photographs are compelling portraits of the people and places of Mississippi blues music, but they are more than documents. His keen sensitivity to color and composition has resulted in a body of work that is both art and document. Bopp is a

freelance photographer whose clients have included *Sports Illustrated*, *Time*, *Time Warner*, *Purina* and *Nike*. In 2012, he was a cinematographer on the documentary film, *We Juke Up in Here*, directed by Roger Stolle, Jeff Konkel and Damien Blaylock, which runs in a loop in the exhibition.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, jazz art and history, and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

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Image credit: Lou Bopp, *King Lloyd (?-2010), Sunroof, Centerville, Mississippi, September 2009.* Fujicolor Crystal Archive print, 22 X 28 inches. Courtesy of the artist.