

Chris Peimann
Dir. of Marketing and Publicity
cpeimann@thesheldon.org
Ph: 314-533-9900 ext. 19
Fax: 314-533-2958

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales
Sheldon Art Galleries Director
314-533-9900 ext. 31
olg@thesheldon.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

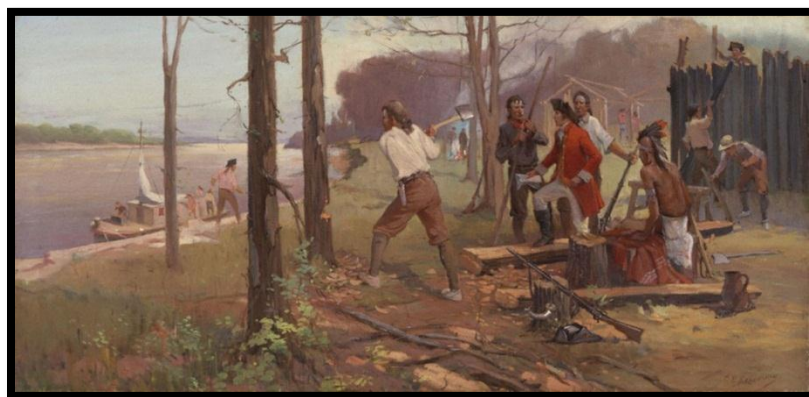
January 7, 2014

**THE SHELDON ANNOUNCES MAJOR EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE
250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LOUIS' FOUNDING**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries announces *Imagining the Founding of St. Louis, February 7 – August 23, 2014* in the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists and History of Jazz Gallery. An opening reception will be held on **Friday, February 7, 2014 from 5 – 7 p.m.**, one week before the city's official 250th birthday on February 15. **The galleries will be open until 9 p.m. that evening for First Fridays in Grand Center.** Gallery hours are Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesday-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 the galleries' website at TheSheldon.org/galleries.asp.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis, the Sheldon Art Galleries has organized an exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture depicting the founding, and the people involved, by a variety of artists including Oscar E. Berninghaus (American, 1874-1952), August Becker (German 1821-1887), Karl Bodmer (Swiss, 1809 – 1893), George Catlin (American, 1796 –1872), Charles Bird King (American, 1785-1862); Charles Ferdinand Wimar (1828-1862) and others.

Organized into four sections, The Routes, The People, The Trade and The Moment, the exhibition and accompanying catalogue examine a variety of “imaginings” of the founding, and also pay tribute to the contributions of Missouri's native people in the founding of the city with a group of rare and historical Osage, Missouria and Illiniwek artifacts and regalia.



The Routes section contains important 18th- and early 19th-century maps by Father Pierre-François-Xavier de Charlevoix, Father Louis Hennepin and Lieutenant John Ross, a page from Auguste Chouteau's rare historic written account of the event (the original manuscript will only be on view for the first month of the exhibit due to its fragility), a view of the Chouteau mansion, and paintings by Charles F. Wimar and Oscar Berninghaus, that tell the story of life on the river.

MORE...



The section on people features a sculpture of Pierre Laclede by the Hungarian-born artist George J. Zolnay, and many objects that pay tribute to the rich culture of the area's first people, including a stunning shield belonging to the Osage Chief Black Dog and a Missouri club from the late 18th century. Also in this section are portraits of native Missourians made in the early 19th century by American and European artists like Karl Bodmer, Louis-Léopold Boilly, Charles Bird King and Anna Maria von Phul, which in some cases are the only documents we have of their ways of life and culture.

The moment of the establishment of the French settlement is commemorated with a selection of paintings and drawings of the event by Oscar E. Berninghaus, and Charles Wimar. St. Louis was built on trade, and the final section of the exhibition speaks to this history through a rich variety of objects such as a beautiful Osage ribbon-work blanket and leggings, Illiniwek and Missouri tomahawks, a trader's bead box and Osage beaded objects. Collectively, the works of art in the exhibition help us to imagine the complex and storied history of the French settlement that became the city of St. Louis.

An accompanying resource room provides books and other background materials for study, as well as contemporary interpretations of the settlement era in photographs and paintings by David Hanlon, Michael Haynes, Sean Standing Bear, Philip Slein and James Michael Smith.

The exhibition includes loans from the Saint Louis Art Museum, The Missouri History Museum, the Osage Tribal Museum, The Saint Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri, St. Louis. The St. Louis Science Center; and private collections.

A companion book with essays by historian Dr. J. Frederick Fausz and Gallery Director, Olivia Lahs-Gonzales; a foreword by Paul K. Reuter, an introduction by Daven Anderson and contributions by Caitlin Donald, Julie Dunn Morton, Kerrie Mohahan, Kathryn Red Corn and Jill Ahlberg Yohe will also be available.

#

*The exhibition is made possible in part by Mary Pillsbury Fine Jewelry Company, Ameren, Eleanor J. Moore,
the Ed and H. Pillsbury Foundation and other generous donors.*

Image Credits:

Oscar E. Berninghaus, (American, 1874-1952), *The Founding of St. Louis*, oil on canvas, 22 1/2" x 44 1/2." Collection of the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Fernand LeQuesne, (French, 1856-1932), *The Founding*, 1898, oil on canvas, 6' 10" x 9' 1 1/2." Collection of the Museum of Westward Expansion.

Shield, Osage People, 1900. Approximate Diameter: 24 in. (61 cm); hide, feathers, cloth, metal, and pigment, Collection of the Osage Tribal Museum.

