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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2015

SHELDON ART GALLERIES FEATURES HISTORIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION OF ROBERT E. GREEN

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Indelible: Historic African-American Photographs and Artifacts from the Collection of Robert E. Green*, June 5 – August 15, 2015 in the Gallery of Photography. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, June 5 from 5 – 7 p.m.** Galleries are open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays - 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 on exhibitions, visit the galleries' website at TheSheldon.org.



Built over 20 years, the Robert E. Green collection of vernacular portraits of African-Americans was put together by the collector's to counter the negative Jim Crow imagery of African-Americans often found in 19th century woodcuts and lithographs. The ambrotypes, tintypes, and albumen prints in this exhibition and in the collection, mostly photographed in portrait studios in St. Louis, represent elegantly attired African-American women and men in formal studio portraits.

A collector with a discerning eye and a passion for history and culture, Green has also assembled a selection of fine African and other historical artifacts relating to his own background and history. By preserving these, Green has created an indelible record of African-American culture in the middle-to-late 19th century. Highlights include a rare carte-de-visite photograph of Frederick Douglass from the 1860s originally in the family collection of lawyer and abolitionist, George B. Vashon. Also included in the exhibit are a beautiful Dogon ladder, Ibeji twin figures, examples of Green's own artwork, and other treasures. A collector and artist, Robert E. Green is also the founder of the St. Louis African-American Artifacts Festival and Bazaar and the Frederick Douglass Museum of African American Vernacular Images in St. Louis.

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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.

Financial Assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. Support is provided by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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Image caption: Robert M. Cargo (American, 1828–1902) *Frederick Douglass*, c. 1860s, albumen print carte de visite, 2 1/2 x 4 inches, collection of Robert E. Green.