FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 7, 2016

THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES PRESENTS A GROUP OF 22 MIXED-MEDIA WORKS
BY ARTIST AMY REIDEL

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents Radar home, 11.8.13 – New Work by Amy Reidel, October 7, 2016 - January 14, 2017 in the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery. An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 7 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. The exhibition is made possible by Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg.

For the past ten years as a multi-media artist, Amy Reidel has found meaning in imagery of “the storm.” As many throughout art history have done, Reidel uses the storm as a metaphor to signify emotional and physical conditions. She combines weather radar and color MRIs - symbols of impending danger or doom, with seductive materials like glitter and colorful paint - symbols of celebration and joy. This juxtaposition of love and fear, a dazzling terror, is the space in which she exists. The exhibition at the Sheldon Art Galleries presents a group of over 20 mixed-media works that include wall and floor pieces, prints, video and paintings.

Reidel's chosen scientific image bases inform each other formally and conceptually, even if it's only in a mythical capacity. Research has shown many visual similarities between imagery of the storms above and the “storms” within. Through portrayals of changing atmospheric and bodily conditions, viewers can question these codes of danger and potentially see the beauty within them. Although they can be threatening, storms also restore balance to a turbulent atmosphere just as disease and death can do the same for a species or ecosystem.

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In *Radar home* 11.8.13, portraits of Reidel and her relatives are exhibited with saturated, scientific imagery, as she further re-interprets family memories and personal accounts through the filters of logic and abstraction. After three years of family members’ cancer diagnoses, treatments, a psychological demise and death, loved ones are represented and imitated in an attempt to hang onto them; an impossible feat reinforced by the fleeting nature of weather itself.

Amy Reidel is a St. Louis-based artist who has exhibited work regionally and nationally since getting her B.F.A from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and her M.F.A at The University of Tennessee. She has been a resident artist at ACRE (Artists’ Cooperative Residency and Exhibitions) based out of Chicago, the David and Julia White Artists’ colony in Ciudad Colon, Costa Rica and at the Luminary Center for the Arts in St. Louis. Her work can be viewed online in the curated artist registries and viewing programs at White Columns and the Drawing Center in New York City. In 2014 Reidel was awarded an Artists’ Support Grant from the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis and in 2016 the Critical Mass Creative Stimulus award. Reidel is currently a faculty member at St. Louis Community College and Saint Louis University, as well as Co-Founder and Creative Editor of *All the Art: The Visual Art Quarterly of St. Louis.*

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:** Amy Reidel, *Radar brain scan (alternate)*, 2016, digital print, 12 inches in diameter, courtesy of the artist.