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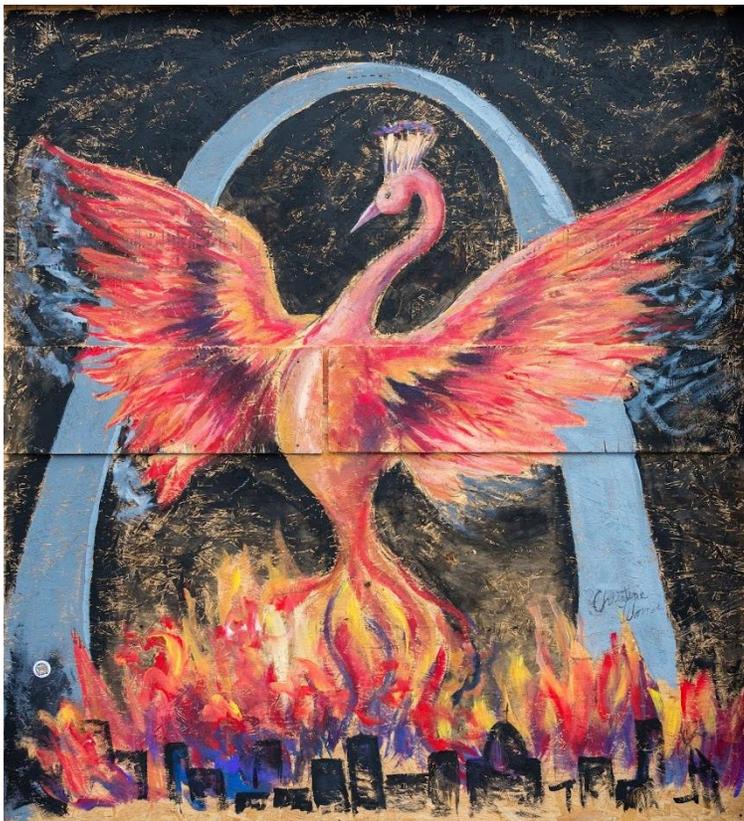
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***OUTSIDE/IN: PAINT FOR PEACE, A POWERFUL COMMUNITY COLLABORATION,
OPENS AT SHELDON ART GALLERIES***

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Outside/In: Paint for Peace*, October 7 – November 21, 2016 in the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists. An opening reception will be held on Friday, October 7 from 5-7 p.m. 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 at the Sheldon Art Galleries is made possible by Ward & Carol Klein.*



Outside/In: Paint for Peace is an unprecedented collaborative community exhibition featuring a selection of the original murals painted on the boarded-up storefronts by amateur and professional artists in the days and weeks following the 2014 protests in Ferguson, MO. The exhibition, which can be seen at multiple locations this fall is spearheaded by COCA (Center of Creative Arts) and brings together multiple partners, including the Sheldon Art Galleries, from across the St. Louis region to pay homage to the art, the artists, and how their story helped create conversation, understanding and healing. Additional murals are on view at COCA, Gallery 210 at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Vaughn Cultural Center, Ferguson Youth Initiative and the Missouri History Museum. The presenting partner for all venues is Regions Bank.

The exhibition is guest curated by Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris. Lewis-Harris is Director of the Connecting Human Origin and Cultural Diversity program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, an Associate Professor of both Anthropology and Education, and has lived and worked around the world – from Tucson, Arizona to Liberia, West Africa to Papua New Guinea – where she has seen first-hand the power of the arts and culture in communities.

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“Taking art into the street created a social diary and provided an outlet for raw emotions, especially for the young, helping them navigate their reactions and views in the days and weeks following the protests,” said Lewis-Harris. “This exhibition is meant to both conserve and preserve these meaningful works of art – ranging from simple drawings of love and peace to challenging calls for social change. We hope to provide historical and technical context and allow the works of art to be preserved as part of the growing international canon of graffiti art.”

Outside/In: Paint for Peace was inspired by “Painting for Peace in Ferguson,” the award-winning children’s book by Carol Swartout Klein. “In November 2014, hundreds of artists and volunteers in Ferguson, MO, and South St. Louis created many colorful paintings to bring hope to a community in shock – they helped to transform a landscape of fear and pain into one of hope and healing,” said Klein. “It was their story I set out to share in my book, and I hope that visitors to this exhibition will find their own inspiration as they reflect on where we’ve been and where we are going – as a city and as a society.”

The Sheldon Art Galleries exhibit includes 5 large-scale murals— one that is 20 feet long by 8 feet high. Providing context for the murals are a selection of photographs by independent photographers and members of the *Chronicle::Ferguson* project, who documented the protests as they were unfolding in 2014. The mission of *Chronicle::Ferguson* is to crowdsource and present first-person photographic accounts of contemporary social issues for educational purposes. Photographers featured in the exhibit are Jarred Gastreich, Kevin Kelly, Michael Thomas, Daniel Shular and Mark Register. The mural artists are Andy Cross, Christine Warner, Brandon Wilkinson, A. J. Rosenberg, as well as those still unknown.

“The arts have often played an important role in helping people process major change and giving voice to issues in a community. We hope this exhibition at COCA and at our presenting and program partner locations throughout the city will provide a means to foster conversation and bridge divides in our community,” said Kelly Pollock, COCA Executive Director. “We are excited to be a part of this important collaborative exhibit that illustrates the power of art to help in the healing process,” said Sheldon Art Galleries Director, Olivia Lahs-Gonzales.

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, music 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: *Phoenix Mural*, Falla Accessories, 3238 South Grand Blvd, 2014, 8 feet x 8 feet, photograph by Ryan Archer.