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**THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES TO OPEN MAJOR EXHIBIT OF
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER STEVE MCCURRY**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Steve McCurry: The Importance of Elsewhere*, October 6, 2017 – February 3, 2018 in the Gallery of Photography. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 6 from 5 – 7 p.m.** and the galleries will be 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 Capes Sokol, Karen and Lawrence Kotner, Northern Trust and Missy and Greg Hill.*



This major exhibition of photographs showcases the work of Steve McCurry, one of the most important voices in contemporary photography for more than 30 years. McCurry's powerful photographs have appeared on scores of magazine and book covers, been the subject of over a dozen published monographs and been featured in exhibitions nationally and internationally. The 37 photographs, some of them large-scale 30 x 40" images, such as his iconic "Afghan Girl" photograph featured on the cover of *National Geographic Magazine* in 1985, were taken in Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, India, Japan, Kashmir, Kuwait, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tibet and Yemen.

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Born in a suburb of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, McCurry studied film at Pennsylvania State University, before going on to work for a local newspaper. After several years of freelance work, McCurry made his first of what would become many trips to India. Traveling with little more than a bag of clothes and another of film, he made his way across the subcontinent, exploring the country with his camera. It was after several months of travel that he found himself crossing the border into Pakistan. There, he met a group of refugees from Afghanistan, who smuggled him across the border into their country, just as the Russian Invasion was closing the country to all western journalists. Emerging in traditional dress, with full beard and weather-worn features after weeks embedded with the Mujahedeen, McCurry brought the world the first images of the conflict in Afghanistan, putting a human face to the issue on every masthead. Since then, McCurry has gone on to create stunning images of six continents and countless countries. His work spans conflicts, vanishing cultures, ancient traditions and contemporary culture alike - yet always retains the human element that made his celebrated image of the Afghan Girl so powerful.

McCurry has been recognized with some of the most prestigious awards in the industry, including the Robert Capa Gold Medal, the National Press Photographers Award, and an unprecedented four first prize awards from the World Press Photo contest. The Minister of French Culture has also appointed McCurry a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters and most recently, the Royal Photographic Society in London awarded McCurry the Centenary Medal for Lifetime Achievement. McCurry has published books including *The Imperial Way* (1985), *Monsoon* (1988), *Portraits* (1999), *South Southeast* (2000), *Sanctuary* (2002), *The Path to Buddha: A Tibetan Pilgrimage* (2003), *Steve McCurry* (2005), *Looking East* (2006), *In the Shadow of Mountains* (2007), *The Unguarded Moment* (2009), *The Iconic Photographs* (2011) and *Untold: The Stories Behind the Photographs* (2013).

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 to the Galleries are provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency and by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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Image Caption: Steve McCurry, *Sbarbat Gula, Afghan Girl, Peshawar, Pakistan*, 1984, EPSON UltraChrome print, 60 x 40 inches. Image courtesy of and © the Artist.