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**THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES CELEBRATES THE 50 YEAR CAREER
OF ARTIST AND ARCHITECT CARL SAFE**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Carl Safe: The Architecture of Buildings, Furniture and Photographs*, October 6, 2017 – February 17, 2018 in the Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture. **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.

Gallery Talk: Tuesday, November 14 at 6 p.m. Carl Safe talks about his career and work. Admission free, but reservations are required. Contact Paula Lincoln at plincoln@thesheldon.org or 314-533-9900 x37.



The Sheldon Art Galleries celebrate the career of Carl Safe, with an exhibition in the Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture featuring architectural designs, furniture and photographs, which span almost 50 years. A multi-talented artist, architect, photographer, furniture maker and educator, Safe's approach to designing buildings, furniture and photographs is similar, giving equal weight to the connection between humanism and the means of construction. In his architectural designs, Safe considers how existing conditions blend with the planned, and how materials may adopt fresh meaning in differing contexts to provide an integrated spatial story while meeting the needs, dreams and budget of the client with his own artistic vision. His understanding and sensitivity to these factors has helped him to create built environments that are both dynamic and humane.

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Safe often plays with and against the materials that he uses in his furniture design, creating juxtapositions and outcomes that are sometimes deliberately anti-intuitive. His “Sumo” coffee table series, makes strong statements about form and fabrication methods. He likens the most successful designs to musical scores, with cerebral depth constructed from a combination of complex ideas that mesh with the kinds of materials used.

Safe’s photography is informed by his sensibilities as an architect. He creates compositions built of lines, textures and elevations that frame their subjects within everyday environments. Most of his images include some reference to the human condition in relationship to the built environment. Safe captures moments of grace, as well as the banal, providing narrative moments about how we perceive ourselves both in reality and in the ideal.

Carl Safe earned a Master of Environmental Design from Yale University in 1970, pursued Latin American Studies at Notre Dame University in the summers of 1965 and 1966 and earned a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1966. In 1970, Safe became a member of the faculty of the School of Architecture at the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University, where he taught undergraduate and graduate design studios, furniture design and a variety of additional courses. From 1966 to 1968, he was a faculty member of the Universidad de San Simon, Cochabamba, Bolivia. He organized and taught summer design studios in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico during the summers of 1974, 1975 and 1981. He has been a visiting critic and juror at many schools of architecture across the country.

Currently, Safe is Professor Emeritus at the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University and Principal at Carl Safe Design Consultants, an architectural office established in 1970 in St. Louis that focuses on residential architecture as well as retail, commercial projects and furniture design.

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: Carl Safe, *Socks 2, A Butcher Block Table*, 2009, baltic birch, 24 x 24 x 16 inches, collection of Chelsea and Jesse Safe, photograph by Carl Safe.