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## SHELDON ART GALLERIES OPENS “WATERSHED CAIRNS” IN SCULPTURE GARDEN THIS SUMMER

ST. LOUIS, MO — The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Watershed Cairns: Libby Reuter and Joshua Rowan*, June 1 – September 29, 2018 in the Lucy and Stanley Lopata Sculpture Garden. **A public opening reception will be held on Friday, June 1, 2018 from 5-7 p.m.** Galleries open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. Extended summer gallery hours are Tuesday – Friday: 12 – 8 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).



Sculptor Libby Reuter and collaborator, photographer Joshua Rowan, temporarily place site-specific cairns in the landscape to mark watersheds around the area. The exhibition features seven cairns in the sculpture garden and photographs by Rowan on a video monitor alongside the installation. More images from the *Watershed Cairns* series can be viewed at [watershedcairns.com](http://watershedcairns.com). The purpose of the project is to inform and inspire viewers to preserve and protect the nation’s fresh water resources.

Inspired by the rocks that hikers stack to mark a trail, Libby Reuter assembles tall sculptures, or cairns, from household glass for her *Watershed Cairns* project. The cairns appear to be made from blown-glass, but a closer look reveals stacked bowls, ashtrays, vases and lamp parts that she purchased at thrift stores and yard sales. The exhibition includes cairns sculptures created between 2011 and 2018. Reuter assembled a special site-specific cairn for The Sheldon’s 1904 World’s Fair Fountain that sits in the center of the space. The other cairns on view at The Sheldon were used as watershed markers in the St. Louis metropolitan area and on the Upper Mississippi River and Upper Missouri River and were removed from the sites after being photographed.

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Sheldon Art Galleries/ *Watershed Cairns: Libby Reuter and Joshua Rowan*  
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Reuter and Rowan have created more than 100 cairns and images in the St. Louis metropolitan area since 2011. Their work has been exhibited at the Missouri History Museum, St. Louis; Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Mt. Vernon, Illinois; a three-venue exhibit at the Audubon Center at Riverlands, West Alton, Missouri; and the National Great Rivers Museum and Jacoby Art Center, Alton, Illinois. In 2016 they expanded *Watershed Cairns* by creating fifty new images, travelling from the source of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca, Minnesota down to St. Louis. This work was featured in a *Watershed Cairns* exhibit at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, Winona, Minnesota. In 2017-2018 they began making works on the Mississippi's main tributary, the Missouri River, from its origin in the Centennial Mountains of Montana to the confluence with the Mississippi River, north of St. Louis. In 2019 they will follow the river as it flows south from St. Louis to its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico.

Libby Reuter retired as Associate Dean at Washington University School of Art (now the Sam Fox School) after 19 years and served as Executive Director of the Schmidt Art Center at Southwestern Illinois College for 11 years. She is an illustrator, sculptor and installation artist whose work deals with social themes. After the flood of 1993, her work has been focused on the region's water resources. Rowan's photographs are in numerous private collections and his graphic design clients include 4 Hands Brewery, *St. Louis Magazine* and the Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis. The title *Watershed Cairns* is a registered trademark.

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**Image caption:** *Pointer* from *Watershed Cairns* by Libby Reuter and Joshua Rowan.