

Chris Peimann
Dir. of Marketing and Publicity
cpeimann@thesheldon.org
Ph: 314-533-9900 ext. 19
Fax: 314-533-2958

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales
Sheldon Art Galleries Director
olg@thesheldon.org
314-533-9900 ext. 31



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2018

POSTER EXHIBIT CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHELDON ART GALLERIES

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *The Sheldon Art Galleries: Celebrating 20 Years*, on view now through January 5, 2019 in the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery at the Sheldon Art Galleries. Gallery hours are 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 TheSheldon.org.

Mounted in celebration of the Sheldon Art Galleries 20th anniversary this fall, the exhibit represents, via exhibit posters created by Gobberdiel Graphic Design and Paradowski Creative, a small sampling of the over 360 exhibits that have been shown in the Sheldon Art Galleries since its founding in 1998. A few of the many exhibition highlights include *Josephine Baker: Image and Icon*; *City of Gabriels: A History of Jazz in St. Louis, 1879 – 1973*; *Ralston Crawford and Jazz Glamour: Costumes and Images from the Collection of Mary Straus*; and *Imagining the Founding of St. Louis*, all of which also had exhibition catalogues produced.

Also on view are more than a dozen concert posters, also designed for The Sheldon by its longtime design firm, Paradowski Creative. Created over the course of the past 20 years, the posters translate the energy and vitality of live music into striking visual art, capturing the spirit of artists such as David Crosby and Graham Nash, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Judy Collins, Arlo Guthrie and more. Also represented are alternative, “unchosen” designs that have never before been seen by the public, and designs for a concert that never happened – a hoped for but never realized concert with Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis from 2005.

In 1994, a capital campaign to make the historic Sheldon Concert Hall accessible was led by Executive Director Paul Reuter, and in the process, Dr. Leigh Gardine, first chair of The Sheldon Board of Directors, had a dream that there should be an art gallery off the lobby for patrons to visit before concerts and during intermissions. Major donor Robert Brookings Smith and his Bellwether Foundation made the first generous gift to create the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists and Collections and other major capital donations followed. The space grew to the 7,000 square foot Sheldon Art Galleries that opened in fall 1998.

MORE...

When the current gallery themes (St. Louis Artists and Collections, Music, Photography, Architecture and Children's Art) were created, there were no full-time exhibit spaces devoted to either photography or architecture in St. Louis, so The Sheldon engaged a group of photography lovers to fund the Gallery of Photography, and the Bernoudy Foundation underwrote the creation of the Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture. The founders also wanted to connect the mission of the concert hall to the art galleries, so a group of jazz and music lovers founded the History of Jazz Gallery (now the Gallery of Music). That gallery's scope was expanded in 2014 when Dr. Aurelia and Jeffrey Hartenberger and their family generously donated over 2,600 world musical instruments, creating our first and only permanent collection.

Arts education for young people has always been an important part of The Sheldon's mission and Southwestern Bell funded what is now the AT&T Gallery of Children's Art. Stanley and Lucy Lopata underwrote the Lopata Sculpture Garden in a space between The Sheldon's two buildings, featuring a fountain from the 1904 World's Fair; Kenneth Kranzberg made possible the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the first floor; Will and Ann Lee Konneker funded the small first floor gallery near the entrance; and The Gateway Foundation made two long-term loans of important sculpture, one by Jim Dine in the lower lobby and a new work by Portuguese artists João Maria Gusmão and Pedro Paiva, recently installed on The Sheldon's soon-to-open Steward Family Plaza.

The *Sheldon Art Galleries: Celebrating 20 Years* exhibition replaces the *Martin Brief: A Brief History of Time* exhibit originally scheduled for the space.

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.

###