

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

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales  
Sheldon Art Galleries Director  
[olg@thesheldon.org](mailto:olg@thesheldon.org)  
314-533-9900 ext. 31



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 22, 2019

### SHELDON ART GALLERIES PRESENTS PHOTOGRAPHS BY STUDENTS OF WENTZVILLE

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries continues its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with *Identity: Art by Students of Wentzville School District High Schools*, February 15 – April 13, 2019 in the AT&T Gallery of Children’s Art. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2019 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 [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).



*Identity*, showcases the talents of students from Wentzville School District’s Holt, Liberty and Timberland High Schools. The exhibition presents 38 drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs and mixed media works that speak to the expression of identity, a topic investigated in their art classes.

Humanity shares a common characteristic—the desire to be recognized by others. One common way we gain recognition is through the individual pursuit of originality. Though this need is sometimes compromised by others’ failure to respect one’s uniqueness, those brave enough to engage in this dynamic are rewarded with some form of recognition. The works in the exhibition aim to convey a sense of how we identify (justly or not) one another’s individuality based on the experiences of living in a diverse society.

MORE...

The mission of the Wentzville School District Art Department is to develop curiosity and an appreciation for and understanding of the visual arts through the creative process in a student-centered environment that inspires a sense of self-worth and responsibility. Students are encouraged to honor and respect differences utilizing appropriate communication. When students persevere through challenges, it leads to empowerment and confidence in their abilities. All students can create, share and appreciate their own artistic expression within and beyond the art classroom. A quality art education program provides opportunities and develops the ability to problem-solve creatively.

From its founding in 1998 to this winter's opening of four new exhibitions, the Sheldon Art Galleries have made their mark on the arts landscape for the past 20 years with some of the most unique, thought-provoking and diverse exhibitions in St. Louis. In this time, the Sheldon Art Galleries has organized or hosted 333 exhibits, and presented countless educational programs for young people and adults, which are offered free to the community.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

# # #

**Image caption:** Alyssa Coleman, *To Test*, 2018, inkjet print, courtesy of the artist.