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## SHELDON ART GALLERIES OPENS EXHIBIT OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAN YOUNGER

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Dan Younger: Travel Places*, February 7 – May 17, 2014 in the Gallery of Photography. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, February 7 from 5 – 7 p.m.** Galleries are 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/galleries.asp](http://TheSheldon.org/galleries.asp). *The exhibition is made possible in part by Phyllis and Kenneth Langsdorf.*



Chosen from several ongoing projects, the photographs in this exhibition focus on tourist spots in the United States that Dan Younger visited during breaks in teaching. In these images, the photographer creates psychologically charged moments by arresting gestures and events in mid-flow. A choreographer of life, Younger, with biting humor, underscores the idiosyncrasies of human behavior and the patchwork nature of public spaces with his incisive exploitation of color, further heightened in Photoshop. Imbued with the same excitement as tourist photographs, Younger's images reveal a sense of wonder, yet are also a canny critique of travel and tourism.

These images fall into the genre of street photography, an artistic sensibility that came of age in the 1960s and '70s when artists like Diane Arbus, Lee Friedlander, Anthony Hernandez, Joel Meyerowitz, Tod Papageorge, Garry Winogrand and others used photography and the snapshot aesthetic to bring to our attention the wonders of the everyday. A favorite of many street photographers, the 35mm camera provided a distinctive, spontaneous view of the world and helped artists render the frenetic life of the urban street. Today, digital cameras are even more ubiquitous than their analogue counterparts, and "on the fly" photographs are easily made with camera phones as well as with more professional grade technology. Today, photographers can also see the results instantly and fine tune their artistic vision in the moment.

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Younger captures the theatre of tourism using the visual language of street photography. Often keeping the camera at waist level, he makes most of his photographs on the sly, enabling the action to play out before his camera without self-consciousness. This way we see the un-posed and unplanned in an environment that is usually full of orchestrated “photo opportunities” and planned vistas. Within the bombast of tourism’s commercial hype, Younger reveals all that makes us human – the frailties and the grace.

Dan Younger is a Professor of Art and former chair of the Department of Art & Art History at the University of Missouri in St. Louis. His photographs have been exhibited nationally and internationally and are in numerous public collections including Museum de Stadt in Gladbeck Germany, The Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, the Harry Ransom Center at UT- Austin, The Saint Louis Art Museum, the Smithsonian Institute and Diaphane, Montreuil sur Brèche in France. Younger's photographs have also been used on the sets of NBC's *The Biggest Loser*, on ABC's *Here Come the Newlyweds* and on VH1's *Scott Baio is 45... and Single*. Tony Marsh, Executive Director of “Newlyweds,” wrote that Younger's photographs are “bold and evocative. They do not merely document, beckoning you to wander around in the sublime space between first impression and fond memory.”

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, jazz 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.

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**Image caption:** Dan Younger, *Vendor, Sea World*, San Diego, California, 2010, inkjet print, 48 x 36 inches, courtesy of the artist.