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SHELDON ART GALLERIES FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHS BY HILDA STUART

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Hilda Stuart: Choctaw Gardens*, October 3, 2014 - January 3, 2015 in the Gallery of Photography. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 3 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.



A companion to *Marty Stuart: The Art of Country Music*, this exhibit features a group of photographs by Hilda Stuart, mother of country music star Marty Stuart. Hilda Stuart's photographs capture life's seemingly arbitrary moments in an intimate way, giving viewers insight into southern life. The images of *Choctaw Gardens* trace the lives of Hilda and her family from the late 1940s to the present, and highlight the shift from black and white to color photography in the mid-20th century. Hilda Stuart, who began photographing seriously at age 16, shows an intelligent eye for color, composition and quotidian moments. The photographs were exhibited for the first time in 2011 at Duke University at the Center for Documentary Studies, and are the subject of the monograph, *Choctaw Gardens*, (Nautilus Publishing, 2012). Tom Rankin, curator of the Duke University exhibit

and author of the introduction to *Choctaw Gardens* writes of her work, "She wants to be present, she wants to remember, she wants to arrest motion, and in the words of Fellow Mississippian William Faulkner, 'put into more lasting form than his own frail, ephemeral instant of life, what he has known first hand.'" Hilda Stuart's photographs do just that. They provide us with a view of the life of a family steeped in music, and a window into a particular moment in American cultural history. A selection of Marty Stuart's costumes, some designed by the renowned Nashville costume designer, Manuel, as well as his first boyhood guitar and a portrait of Marty by the well-known outsider artist, Howard Finster, are also included in the exhibition.

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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, 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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Part of the American Arts Experience – St. Louis

Image caption: *Marty Stuart on family vacation at The Beach Club, Panama City, Florida, 1967, (inkjet print, 2011), 13 1/2 x 14 inches on 16 x 20 inch paper, courtesy of the Marty Stuart Archives.*