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**SHELDON ART GALLERIES CONTINUES THE STL250 CELEBRATION WITH
CHILDREN’S EXHIBIT “IMAGINING ST. LOUIS HISTORY”**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Through Their Eyes: Children Imagine St. Louis History*, October 3, 2014 - January 24, 2015 in the AT&T Gallery of Children’s Art. **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.



Brought to life by students of The Wilson School French class under the guidance of their teacher Joana Ocos-Ritter, the pieces in this exhibit provide a view of life in colonial St. Louis. The children began to imagine their own historical French colonial characters. They acted out their characters in front of the camera and provided narrative histories for them. Through visits to the History Museum, Ste. Genevieve and Fort de Chartres, the Wilson School students pieced together what life looked like in French Colonial times, and began weaving the strands of knowledge into a story all their own. Soon, deeply felt narratives began to emerge. Orphans, runaways, midwives, soldiers, musicians, seamstresses, blacksmiths – all wanted their stories told, and their voices heard. The pictures in this exhibition tell stories of discovery, history, make-believe, and, ultimately about what makes us human – through children’s eyes. This exhibition is organized in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis.

Since 1913, The Wilson School has provided an extraordinary experience in elementary education. Preparing students for success in an ever-changing world, the school’s exceptional educators combine classic and innovative methods within a warm, nurturing environment.

MORE...

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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: *Aliff – Surveyor/Builder*, 2011, lightjet print from digital file, 20 x 16 inches.
Photograph by Joana Ocros-Ritter.