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## SHELDON ART GALLERIES PRESENTS AN OVERVIEW OF PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CAREER OF JOURNALIST WILLIAM STAGE

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Wm. Stage: Photographs and Assemblages*, October 3, 2014 – February 7, 2015 in the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery. **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](http://TheSheldon.org).



This exhibition presents an overview of photographs from the career of journalist, author and photographer William Stage, who has focused much of his attention on the American Midwest. Featured are portraits of workaday and well-known St. Louisans along with internationally-recognized artists seen in *Pictures Of People* (2006); images from Stage's long-time endeavor, the documentation of rapidly-disappearing vintage brick wall signs in cities and rural towns; and a group of landscapes made in small town Metro East Illinois. A collection of Stage's assemblages, whimsical and/or droll dioramas, is also on display.

Stage was a columnist and feature writer for *The Riverfront Times* from 1982-2004 and a columnist for *The St. Charles County Business Record / The Daily Record* for ten years after that. He taught Photojournalism at Saint Louis University's School For Professional Studies and has been a guest commentator of KWMU-St. Louis Public Radio. His books include *The Painted Ad: A Postcard Book Of Vintage Brick Wall Signs* (2011, with Margaret Stage); *Have A Weird Day: Reflections and Ruminations on the St. Louis Experience* (2003); and the true crime work *Litchfield: A Strange & Twisted Saga of Murder in the Midwest* (1998). His photographs have appeared in many publications, including the cover of *For The Common Good* (Oxford University Press, 2002). Stage was adopted at a young age, and in 2001, tracked down his biological family - a search-and-reunion documented by a Canadian film crew for the TV series *Past Lives* and led to his 2009 comic memoir *Fool For Life*.

MORE...

Sheldon Art Galleries/ *Wm. Stage: Photographs and Assemblages*  
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**Gallery Talk and Book signing: Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 6 p.m. William Stage** will speak on his photographic adventures. A book signing will follow. Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery, admission free, but reservations required. Call Susan Sheppard at 314-533-9900 x37 or email [ssheppard@TheSheldon.org](mailto:ssheppard@TheSheldon.org) to reserve your seat.

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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*Part of the American Arts Experience – St. Louis*

**Image caption:** Wm. Stage, *Swineberd, National Stockyards, National City*, Illinois, 1984, gelatin silver print, 13 1/4 x 9, courtesy and © Wm. Stage.