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THE SHELDON
CONCERT HALL & ART GALLERIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2014

**GALLERY TALK AND 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXHIBIT
*BARBARA HOLTZ: RETROSPECTIVE AT THE SHELDON***

- Event:** Barbara Holtz: Gallery Talk and 90th Birthday Celebration
- When:** Saturday, December 27 at 11 a.m., reception to immediately follow
- Where:** Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists
- Tickets:** Admission free, but reservations required. Call Susan Sheppard at 314-533-9900 x 37 or email ssheppard@TheSheldon.org to reserve your seat.

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon Art Galleries presents a free gallery talk and birthday celebration in conjunction with the exhibit, *Barbara Holtz: Retrospective* (through January 17, 2015) at the Sheldon Art Galleries. Exhibit artist **Barbara Holtz in conversation with Gallery director, Olivia Lahs-Gonzales**, will speak on her work as the galleries celebrate her 90th Birthday. A cake and champagne reception immediately follows the talk. Free and open to the public. For more information, call The Sheldon during normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 314-533-9900 or visit www.TheSheldon.org.

Barbara Holtz's expressive use of line and color, often with collaged elements, illuminate very personal narratives about family and her own inner world. Her large-scale, mixed media portraits are a creative mixture of painting and photography that makes them unique tributes to her family members. Holtz's tour-de-force landscapes, inspired by trips to Nepal, India and Puerto Rico, are metaphors for her own personal journey, and often present positive messages about obstacles overcome. A graduate of the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri in 1946, Holtz also studied at the New School of Social Research in New York from 1948-1949. She worked in New York as a copywriter at Young and Rubicam from 1948-50 and then at CBS as a television production assistant for the *Gary Moore Show*, and with Ralph Nelson on *I Remember Mama*. Born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1924, Holtz came to painting late in her career, studying painting at Washington University in the early 1960s. Holtz was represented by the Elliot Smith Gallery and was the focus of one-person exhibits there in 1986 and 1988. She has also been included in numerous group exhibitions including the first Mexican Biennale at the *Universidad Autónoma Chapingo*, Mexico, and the Architectural Home Design Show at Pier 94 in 2009 and 2010. Holtz received a medal in the Florence Biennale in 2005, is the recipient of a Missouri Arts Council grant, and winner of multiple awards in regional juried shows. ***The exhibition is made possible in part by Barbara and Arthur McDonnell.***

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