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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2015

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE RICH CAREER OF ARTIST SOLOMON THURMAN IS PRESENTED
IN NEW EXHIBIT AT SHELDON ART GALLERIES**



ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Solomon Thurman: An Artistic Practice*, June 5 – September 19, 2015 in the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, June 5 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. *The exhibition is made possible by Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg.*

Encompassing over 40 years of work in painting, drawing, and sculpture, this exhibition presents an overview of the rich career of Solomon Thurman. In these years, Thurman has focused primarily on the American experience with an emphasis on the African Diaspora. Creating work from his own personal history and documented historical events, Thurman's narratives are told in vibrant colors and expressive brush strokes. The exhibition includes works from his tour-de-force *Personal Migration* series, which was created to celebrate the life of Thurman's grandmothers, Lillie and Johnnie Mae, who were second generation former slaves from the Mississippi Delta, as well as works from his *Songs of the Field* and recent *Highway Landscapes* series, among others.

Born in St. Louis, Solomon Thurman is an artist, researcher, and teacher. He received a liberal arts degree from Forest Park College in 1978, and graduated from Graphique Commercial Art Institute in 1980. Thurman has also won numerous public art commissions throughout St. Louis, including the Black Americans in Flight mural at Lambert Airport (co-designed with Spencer Taylor) and a work for the Black World History Museum. He is owner of 10th Street Gallery in downtown St. Louis, and a community outreach instructor at the Saint Louis Art Museum. His work has been the focus of numerous one-person and group exhibitions in United States, Canada and Brazil.

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Sheldon Art Galleries/ *Soloman Thurman: An Artistic Practice*
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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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Image caption: Solomon Thurman, *Field of Dreams*, oil on canvas, 28 x 32 inches, courtesy of the artist and 10th Street Gallery, St. Louis.