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### **SHELDON ART GALLERIES FEATURES WORKS OF THREE GENERATIONS OF INDIGENOUS PHOTOGRAPHERS**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Our People, Our Land, Our Images*, September 4 - November 21, 2015 in the Gallery of Photography. An opening celebration will be on Friday, October 2 from 5-7 p.m., but the exhibit will be on view beginning Friday, September 4, when the galleries will be 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). *The exhibition is made possible by Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg.*



*Our People, Our Land, Our Images* presents the works of three generations of indigenous photographers from North America, South America, the Middle East and New Zealand. They include newly discovered, nineteenth-century trailblazers, as well as established contemporary practitioners, and emerging photographers from the next generation. The fifty-one works in the exhibition tell their stories through differing photographic approaches, ranging from straightforward documentary to aesthetically altered images that combine overlays and collage. The images stand united, however, in exploring their creators' connections to their land, community and traditions.

Artists' statements accompanying the exhibition convey a variety of indigenous voices and concerns. The twenty-six artists in the exhibition include Cherokee Jennie Ross Cobb, the earliest known female Native American photographer.

The many perspectives represented in the exhibition offer an open-ended experience that asks audiences to think about how the camera, in the hands of indigenous peoples, becomes a tool with the power to confront and analyze stereotypes, politics and histories. *Our People, Our Land, Our Images* also demonstrates the longevity and continuing vitality of native photographic traditions.

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The exhibition is curated by Veronica Passalacqua, curator at the N.C. Gorman Museum, Davis, California and traveled by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. ExhibitsUSA sends more than 25 exhibitions on tour to more than 100 small- and mid-sized communities every year. Mid-America is the oldest nonprofit regional arts organization in the United States. More information is available at [www.maaa.org](http://www.maaa.org) and [www.eusa.org](http://www.eusa.org).

Guest curator Veronica Passalacqua of The C. N. Gorman Museum at the University of California, Davis, originally organized this exhibition in conjunction with a conference for international indigenous photographers held at the museum. For the past fifteen years, Passalacqua has been active in the field of Native North American art as a writer, curator and scholar. Most recently, she facilitated the donation/repatriation of a significant private Lakota collection of artifacts to the Buechel Memorial Lakota Museum, Pine Ridge Reservation. Previous curatorial work includes exhibitions at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford; the Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock; and the Barbican Art Gallery, London.

**Gallery Talk Saturday, October 24, 2015, 11 a.m. Hulleah J. Tsinhnahjinnie**, director, the C.N. Gorman Museum, University of California, Davis, will speak on the exhibition and her own personal work included in the exhibition. Admission free, but reservations are required. For reservations call 314-533-9900 x18 or email [rgunter@thesheldon.org](mailto:rgunter@thesheldon.org).

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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**Image caption:** Shan Goshorn, *Renewal/Earth Return*, c. 2002, hand-tinted, double-exposed, gelatin silver print, 24 x 30 inches, courtesy of the artist. © Shan Goshorn.