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### **SHELDON ART GALLERIES - LUMINOUS COMPOSITIONS BY ARTIST JULIE MALONE**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Julie Malone: Luminous*, October 2, 2015 - January 23, 2016 in the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 2 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).



Using the natural world as inspiration, Julie Malone creates colorful abstract compositions that exude energy, color and light. Painting on panels that she constructs herself, Malone “builds” her works by creating mesmerizing relationships of form and color from the structured application of paint. She lays down overlapping planes and drips and punctuates with surface “carving” and scratch drawing. While her earlier work was figurative, Malone’s recent work has turned towards the abstract, drawing from her interest in the optical effects of color, digital imagery and the world around her. Though the paintings are abstract, they hint at things known – one might see in them a sunset, trees, water or a garden landscape. She is inspired by the visual effects that color makes when it is

revealed by light streaming across objects, and when the sun illuminates the landscape during both sunrise and sunset. “I consider my painting style to be an evolution; ‘growing, changing’ while keeping past techniques and exploring the effects of oil paint with its massive, malleable palette. The landscape for example, was the earliest subject for me with watercolor. I completely abandoned that for the abstract and oil paint around 1998. The dripping technique, found in my past watercolor, is now, in oil, the foundation for my newest ‘imagined’ landscapes. I developed the impressionistic marks in my new work using a square brush called the Bright. This imagery reflects a past profession, mimicking the pixel of digital photography. My latest works are a combination of all the working techniques in my life as a painter,” says Malone. The 30 works in the exhibition are from 2013 - 2015, and many were created especially for the exhibition at the Sheldon Art Galleries.

MORE...

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Julie Malone was born in Kansas City in 1971. She received a B.F.A in Studio Art/Painting from Central Missouri State University in 1995 and moved to St. Louis in 1996. She began her career as a digital designer working within the decorative and laminate industry. Her painting and creative drive were impacted in 1999 after the birth of her first child. At that time she moved from the corporate world to pursue her lifelong love of painting. She has made painting her primary focus, along with opening a small studio/gallery in the Southampton neighborhood about 5 years ago. SOHA Studio and Gallery features the work of St. Louis Metro-area painters, and houses her studio where works by Malone are always on view.

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:** Julie Malone, *To Hana*, 2015, oil and pastel on wood panel, 26 x 24, courtesy of the artist and SOHA Studio and Gallery, St. Louis.