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SHELDON ART GALLERIES FEATURES WORKS BY ARTISTS FROM THE LIVING ARTS STUDIO

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *The Brightest Corner: Work by VSA Missouri Member Artists from the Living Arts Studio*, June 10 – August 6, 2016 in the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists. An opening reception will be held on Friday, June 10 from 5-7 p.m. 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 Brightest Corner features the work of 10 member artists who work out of the Living Arts Studio in Maplewood, Missouri. The complicated, compelling and sophisticated artwork on view showcases the talents of, and the impact of the arts on, these artists, who are all living with a disability.

Living Arts is a bustling studio that offers workshops classes and open studio time. Embracing creativity on all levels, Living Arts gives individuals access to one-on-one instruction and support from local artists and writers. Living Arts also provides scholarships and assistance for those with disabilities so that art is accessible to everyone.

Living Arts is the product of a collaboration with VSA (Vision, Strength, Access) Missouri, Bridges Community Support Services and Spirited Hands Art. Together, they are a strong community that offers classes for people living with and without disabilities in a creative, safe space, fostering individuality, self-regulation and creative expression. Just a year after its opening, Living Arts Studio already offers expanded open studio hours, increased classes and has regular art shows and exhibitions. The Living Arts Studio is located at 2814 Sutton Boulevard in Maplewood, Missouri.

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Sheldon Art Galleries/ *The Brightest Corner: Work by VSA Missouri Member Artists from the Living Arts Studio*
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Living Arts/VSA Missouri is a statewide organization promoting access to the arts for people with disabilities. The works exhibited in Living Arts/VSA Missouri envisions a truly inclusive community where people with disabilities participate in the same professional development, educational and leisure opportunities in the arts as people without disabilities. The exhibition is organized by Living Arts/VSA Missouri and curated by their executive director, Gina Alvarez. More information on Living Arts/VSA Missouri visit livingartsstudio.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 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: Chip Beers, *Shape Color Map*, acrylic on paper, 2016, 40 x 52.5 inches, courtesy of the artist and Living Arts/VSA Missouri.