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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2016

**SHELDON ART GALLERIES SUMMER EXHIBITS FEATURE IMAGES
BY THE LATE ST. LOUIS MUSICIAN AND PHOTOGRAPHER BOB REUTER**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Grainy Black & White: The Photography of Bob Reuter*, June 10 – September 17, 2016 in the Ann Lee and Wilfred Konneker Gallery. **An opening reception is scheduled for 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.



“Bob was an art warrior and not a civilian,” said the artist and friend of Bob Reuter, Tom Huck. True to this description, Reuter’s photographs were gritty, raw, cinematic, punk, scratchy and bohemian. *Grainy Black & White: The Photography of Bob Reuter*, is an overview of, and memorial to, St. Louis musician and photographer Bob Reuter, whose black and white photographs document the denizens and musicians of St. Louis’ underground scene. Pictured in the 80 photographs chosen for the exhibit by gallery director and curator, Olivia Lahs-Gonzales, are Jay Farrar and Pokey LaFarge, as well as Reuter’s friends and street scenes—often shot at night. Dubbed the “King of South St. Louis,” Reuter was one of the important pioneers of the area’s punk, rock and alt-country music scenes. When he died in an accident in St. Louis in 2013 at the age of 61, media outlets as far away as London covered his passing.

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It was during an illness in 1997, that Reuter picked up a camera and began shooting— focusing on what he knew best— the people and places of the underground scene in St. Louis. His approach was “old school”— he used a chunky 35mm Pentax and developed and printed his photographs first at Forest Park Community College’s darkroom, and then at the printmaking studio of his friend, Tom Huck. There he produced grainy, gritty and sometime ethereal prints that perfectly captured his subjects as they were. He was skillful in rendering the stark contrasts of the night— the interplay of light and shadow, and the endearing personalities of his friends and acquaintances. The title of the exhibit comes from the title of a song written by Bob Reuter, entitled “It Don’t Matter.” In it, Reuter declares, “My life is a grainy black and white handheld camera jerkin’ all around.”

Reuter collaborated or played with a number of bands, including the Dinosaurs, Lost Monkey, Kamikaze Cowboy, Thee Dirty South, Black Diamond Heavies, Jeff Tweedy and others. His last band was Alley Ghost, which still performs today. He was also a volunteer DJ on KDHX (88.1 FM), hosting the popular program, *Bob’s Scratchy Records*. He also published several books, including “Tales of a Talking Dog,” published through Saint Louis Projects, as well as “Where the Dark Ones Run” and “Light Fuse and Run.”

Gallery Talk: “Campfire Stories”- Memories of Bob Reuter

Tuesday, July 19 from 6 – 7 p.m. Led by artist Tom Huck and Chris Baricevic, President of Big Muddy Records, this informal evening invites friends of Bob Reuter to share their memories and stories with the audience. Admission free, but reservations are required. Contact Paula Lincoln at plincolin@thesheldon.org or 314.533.9900 x37. Cash bar.

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, music 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: Bob Reuter, *Untitled (Girl with Laptop)*, date unknown, gelatin silver print, 7 x 5 inches, collection of Bob Reuter.