

Chris Peimann
Dir. of Marketing and Publicity
cpeimann@thesheldon.org
Ph: 314-533-9900 ext. 19
Fax: 314-533-2958

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales
Sheldon Art Galleries Director
olg@thesheldon.org
314-533-9900 ext. 31



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SHELDON ART GALLERIES FEATURES WORKS BY YOUNG ARTISTS FROM WHITFIELD SCHOOL

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *This I Believe: Work by Whitfield School Art Students*, October 7, 2016 - January 21, 2017 in the AT&T Gallery of Children's Art. An opening reception will be held on Friday, October 7 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 exhibition is made possible by Missy and Greg Hill.*



The exhibition *This I Believe: Work by Whitfield School Art Students*, which features 28 digital photo “collages,” graphics and ceramic pieces, draws inspiration from the *This I Believe* project that began over 50 years ago as part of the Edward R. Murrow radio program. The *This I Believe* program is continued to this day by the international, non-profit organization of the same name. Led by photography and design teacher, Cara Foster, ceramics teacher, Luke Cano, and drawing and painting teacher, Jim Daniels, Whitfield School art students explored their personal beliefs using the concept as a launching point for these self-reflective pieces. Collectively, this body of work is both a glimpse into the minds of these young individuals and acts as a catalyst to ignite the viewer's own inquiry into personal, core values.

The Whitfield School visual arts program is committed to developing both artists and creative thinkers. Projects are designed so that students not only hone their technical skills, but learn to communicate visually. During this project, students explored ways to communicate their personal beliefs in drawing through facial expression, composition and mark-making, in photography through the use of light, color and imagery, and in ceramics through the use of form, texture and glazing. This one, seemingly simple and prompt, *This I Believe* allowed for a personal, intellectual and artistic exploration within each discipline.

MORE...

Sheldon Art Galleries/ *This I Believe: Work by Whitfield School Art Students*
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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, music 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: Caroline Cizek, *I Believe that there are Two Sides to Every Story*, 2016, inkjet print from digital photo manipulation, 15 x 10 inches, image courtesy of the artist and Whitfield School.