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SHELDON GALLERY TALK TO FEATURE PROJECT ARTISTS FROM “HIGHER GROUND” EXHIBIT

Event: Gallery Talk:
Higher Ground: Honoring Washington Park Cemetery, Its People and Place

When: Friday, April 7 at 6 p.m.

Where: Sheldon Art Galleries

Tickets: Admission free, but reservations required. Call Paula Lincoln at 314-533-9900 x 37 or email plincolin@TheSheldon.org to reserve your seat.

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon Art Galleries presents a free gallery talk in conjunction with the exhibit, *Higher Ground: Honoring Washington Park Cemetery, Its People and Place* (through August 26, 2017) at the Sheldon Art Galleries. The gallery talk will feature project artists Denise Ward-Brown, Jennifer Colten and Dail Chambers.

This multi-media exhibition, conceived by photographer Jennifer Colten, includes 50 large scale, color landscape photographs by Colten, as well as video and oral histories by Denise Ward-Brown, historical land documentation, historical narrative panels and an art installation by Dail Chambers, which together provide an overview of the history and issues surrounding this historically African-American cemetery. Washington Park Cemetery, located near Lambert-St. Louis International Airport was established in 1920 as a burial ground for African Americans at a time when rigid segregation was common practice. For nearly 70 years, it was the largest black cemetery in the region, and the final resting place for many prominent African Americans. In the 1950s, the cemetery was split and parts paved over by Interstate 70, and again in the 1970s and 1990s disruption and erasure occurred; bodies were disinterred and moved when parts of this land were appropriated by Lambert Airport and MetroLink. This exhibition tells the story of the cemetery’s long history and reveals the complicated tangle of social injustice, racial politics and neglect that it has suffered.

For more information, call The Sheldon during normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 314-533-9900 or visit www.TheSheldon.org.

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