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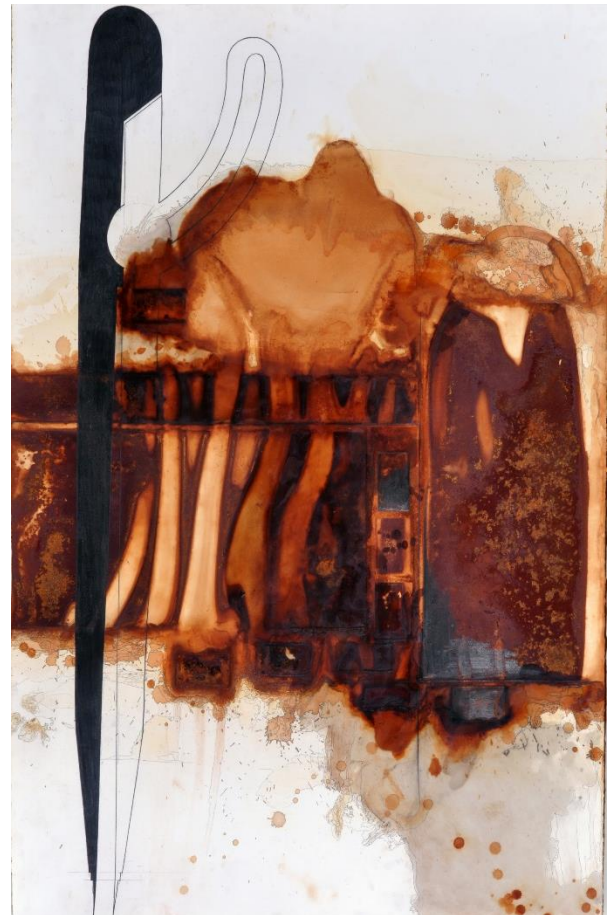


**SHELDON ART GALLERIES OPENS EXHIBIT BY JOE CHESLA EXPLORING  
THE INTERCHANGE BETWEEN NATURE AND INDUSTRIALIZATION**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Lying Heavy: New Work by Joe Chesla*, October 6 – November 25, 2017 in the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 6 from 5 – 7 p.m.** and the galleries will be 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). *The exhibition is made possible by Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg, Barbara and Arthur McDonnell and Saint Louis Polonia, Inc., with support from the Regional Arts Commission.*

**Gallery Talk: Tuesday, October 24 at 6 p.m.** Joe Chesla will discuss the work in the exhibition. Admission free, but reservations are required. Contact Paula Lincoln at [plincoln@thesheldon.org](mailto:plincoln@thesheldon.org) or 314-533-9900 x37.

Joe Chesla uses the corrosive force of the elements to create rust imprints of raw steel plates and tools on fine printmaking paper, creating works that he further develops with “free drawing.” Chesla’s engagement with the paper, and the chance effects of the process, explore the interchange between nature and industrialization, as well as the cerebral and intuitive. Using aspects of order, repetition, stillness and evolution, Chesla imbues the paper with a strong sense of the presence of the object. His interest lies in places of personal confrontation with beauty, stillness, isolation and mindfulness where both the created surface and the represented object have a powerful presence. This body of work, started over a decade ago, with a dramatic shift during a residency in France, was further resolved at residencies in Poland during his sabbatical in 2016.



MORE...

Sheldon Art Galleries/ *Lying Heavy: New Work by Joe Chesla*  
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Joe Chesla received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Utah State University and his Bachelor of Science from University of Wisconsin Stout. He studied at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, University of Minnesota College of Fine Art, and the Kansas City Art Institute, and lectured at numerous institutions nationally and internationally. Chesla worked as a preparator at The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, as Head Preparator at the Kemper Museum of Art in Kansas City and as a potter in Shigaraki, Japan.

Chesla's work has been exhibited internationally in France, Japan, India, China, Poland and Taiwan, and nationally at Sculpture Key West (Key West, Florida), the Henry Lay Sculpture Park (Louisiana, Missouri), Washington University Medical Campus (St. Louis, Missouri), Sculpture on the Streets (Effingham, Illinois), Alexander Gallery (Savannah, Georgia), NCECA (Scottsdale, Arizona), and the Art Gallery (Honolulu, Hawaii). He has received numerous awards and grants including the Utah State Arts Grant, Utah Art Council Arts Grant, Jon Morgan Fellowship, George B. and Marie Eccles Caine Fellowship, and the Regional Arts Commission Grant. He has been artist in residence at Pays'Art at Marnay Sur Seine Botanical Garden, France, and at the Academy of Fine Art in Katowice and Chorzow Culture Center (Chorzowskie Centrum Kultury) in Poland. Chesla currently holds the position of Professor of Fine Art, coordinating the Sculpture Department at St. Louis Community College at Meramec in St. Louis, Missouri.

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, 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 to the galleries are provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency and by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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**Image caption:** Joe Chesla, *Untitled*, 2016, iron oxide, graphite, encaustic on paper, 44 x 31 inches, courtesy of the artist.