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## SHELDON ART GALLERIES OPENS MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBIT BY STUDENTS OF CARDINAL RITTER COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *School Focus: Cardinal Ritter College Prep Student Exhibit*, March 2 – April 21, 2018 in the AT&T Gallery of Children’s Art. **An opening reception will be held on Friday, March 2 from 5 - 7 p.m.** Galleries are 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 first in a series of school focused exhibits to be mounted at the Sheldon Art Galleries in the coming years, *School Focus: Cardinal Ritter College Prep Student Exhibit* features a group of 46 powerful drawings, ceramics and paintings—some large scale—by current and former students of Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School (CRCP) that speak to current events, family and faith.

CRCP’s Fine Arts program provides a dynamic visual and performing arts curriculum. Students produce professional quality works of art in all mediums. Under the tutelage of the department chair, artist Richard Hunt, students develop their abilities in art production and analysis, using art elements, principles, media processes, subject matter,

theory, technologies and themes to express their ideas and interpret images in today’s visually-oriented culture. For students just beginning to explore fine arts, CRCP’s program allows and encourages them to dedicate time to study and master techniques from existing works to learn media control and production practices as a prelude to their own compositions.

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Through the study of fine arts, CRCP students have developed creative and critical thinking skills that will allow them to be effective problem-solvers both in and outside of school and in multiple disciplines. The Fine Arts Department assists students in developing a knowledge of their own artistic heritage as well as those of different cultures. The program also encourages students to understand and value both personal identity and the diversity found in a global society through the study of art history, art criticism, and consideration of art's aesthetic and societal functions, using the latest technologies while learning inferential critical cognitive processes.

CRCP's mission is to provide an exceptional Catholic urban educational experience for youth that instills attitudes of success and self-worth through faith development, academic excellence and leadership. CRCP graduates have a strong sense of their worth and dignity and set high goals and expectations for themselves, which will enable them to successfully serve the African-American and global communities. To learn more about Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School, visit [cardinalritterprep.net](http://cardinalritterprep.net).

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 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:** Julius Wells, Class of 2012, Memorial Portrait, *St. Louis Metropolitan Police Officer Norvelle T. Brown*, 2012, colored pencil on paper, 22 X 19.25 inches. Instructor, Richard Hunt. Photo courtesy of the artist and Cardinal Ritter College Prep School.