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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELDON ART GALLERIES PRESENTS DIGITALLY CREATED PATTERNS
BY AFRICAN ARTIST SEVERIN PELEKARA**

ST. LOUIS, MO –The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Sanza Soul: Certified by Pelekara, Patterns and Designs by Severin Pelekara*, October 5, 2018 – January 26, 2019 in the Ann Lee and Wilfred Konneker Gallery, along with several other complementary exhibits focusing on the immigrant experience. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 5 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.



Severin Pelekara was born in the Central African Republic and raised in Cameroon. He is a recent immigrant hoping to build a life here in the United States. Sanza (pronounced san-ja) is a patterned cloth used in the Central African Republic where Pelekara was born. The patterns shown in this exhibition, created by Pelekara, illustrate memories, events, people and stories from his childhood. They are representative of the traditions, heritage and the African culture that influenced Pelekara's life and are a way to tell the story visually with symbols representing the experiences that have shaped who he has become and who he will grow to be. Pelekara's goal is to create 100 designs that continue to tell the stories of his life, and to have some of his designs digitally printed on fabrics and used to create African-inspired clothing and household goods.

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.

Image: Severin Pelakara, *Dunia YoYo*, 2018, textile design pattern, courtesy of the artist.

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