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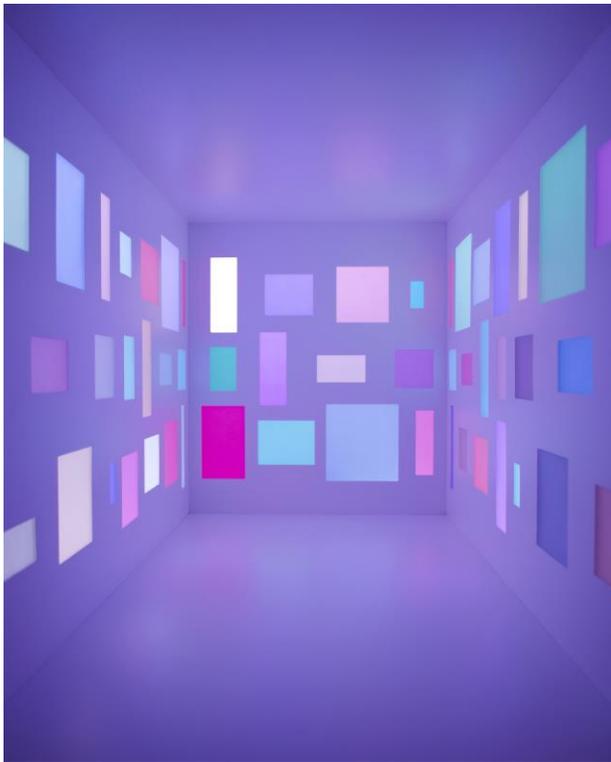
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**THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES OPENS ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION FEATURING EIGHT
MINIATURIZED ROOM-SCULPTURES BY ST. LOUIS-BASED ARTISTS EVAN AND STACEY SMITH**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries continues its 20th anniversary season with *Evan and Stacey Smith: Liminal Spaces*, from February 15 – April 13, 2019 in the Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2019 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 TheSheldon.org.

Gallery Talk: Tuesday, March 12 at 6 p.m. Artists Evan and Stacey Smith discuss their work and collaborative process. Admission free, reservations suggested. Call or email Paula Lincoln at 314-533-9900 x37 or plincoln@thesheldon.org to reserve.



Liminal Spaces is made up of eight miniaturized room-sculptures by St. Louis-based artists Evan and Stacey Smith, four of which were created especially for the Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture space. Working as a team, Evan designs and builds the sculptures and Stacey employs her expertise in lighting to make them come alive. Inspired by sacred spaces, the rooms are illuminated by programmable LED lighting that creates mesmerizing, changing patterns of light and color. The works play against the physicality of the gallery and influence the psychological experience of the architectural space that contains them.

The exhibit will provide visitors with another way of thinking about architectural space and its psychological effects on the people who interact with it. The Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture features exhibits that focus on both historical and contemporary architectural design, but also present works that show how we interact with and experience place and space on a conceptual level.

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One work in the exhibition is site-specific and plays off the gallery's architecture. Designed to bridge two angled, but separated, alcoves found in the gallery, when viewed together, the structures appear to connect, creating the effect of a long, single hallway. Another work was inspired by the Sheldon Concert Hall's historic space. Originally built in 1912 to present music and spoken word for the Ethical Society of St. Louis, The Sheldon now presents over 125 concerts and even more events yearly in its spaces. Other works mimic the feeling of entering a cathedral or other meditative environment. In previous installations from the series, the artists engaged in conversations with viewers about their understanding of how the nature of a space can affect an experience of art or religion, which in turn provided direction for their immersive pieces.

The Smith's sculptures carry on the artistic conversations about the experience of space as mediated by light by artists like James Turrell and Dan Flavin and echo experiences like those found in the Rothko chapel in Texas. Like the works of these artists, the Smiths' sculptures are meant to raise questions about our ability to access the sacred - both religious and artistic - and mirror the innate human struggle to physically encounter the mysterious within venerated spaces. Because access to the spaces they design is restricted by their size, the artists force us to rely only on our own sense of perception to enter and connect to each piece. The works provide the meditative experience of sacred spaces and help to remove us from the noise of our everyday lives.

Evan and Stacey Smith are a collaborative team based in St. Louis. Their artwork manifests their own union of art and science, where they create sculptures that seamlessly meld the two disciplines and can be appreciated by both audiences. They use newer technologies including 3D printing, laser cutting, CNC (computer numerical control) machining, computer programming, custom fabrication and custom electronics. View more of their work at www.evanandstacey.com and on Instagram [@evanandstacey](https://www.instagram.com/evanandstacey).

From its founding in 1998 to this winter's opening of four new exhibitions, the Sheldon Art Galleries have made their mark on the arts landscape for the past 20 years with some of the most unique, thought-provoking and diverse exhibitions that bring the world to St. Louis through art. In this time, the Sheldon Art Galleries has organized or hosted 327 exhibits, and presented countless educational programs for young people and adults, which are offered free to the community.

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: Evan and Stacey Smith, *Liminal Space #1*. 2017. wood, PVC, acrylic, colored gels, LED Lighting, 26 inches h x 45 inches l x 29 inches w, courtesy of the artists.