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Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Display Printmaking and Vintage Chinese Advertisements

February 24, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – April Katz’s works, *The Language of Memory*, as well as a variety of Chinese advertising posters from the 1920s and 1930s, will be displayed in Illinois Wesleyan University’s Merwin and Wakeley Galleries, respectively, from Tuesday, March 2 through Thursday, April 1. The galleries are located in the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art Building (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington). The opening reception for both exhibitions will be held on Tuesday, March 2 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The galleries will be closed from Saturday, March 13 to Sunday, March 21 for the University’s Spring Break.

Katz, who earned her master’s degree from Arizona State University in 1988, will present a lecture on Tuesday, March 2 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

An associate professor at Iowa State University, Katz teaches printmaking and serves as faculty advisor to the University Print Society. From 2004-2006, she was president of the Southern Graphics Council. Using printmaking as both a technique and visual language system to convey issues related to the genetic and cultural inheritance of identity, her work has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States. Collections such as the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Mo.; Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University; and the Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C. have also displayed her artwork. Recent juried exhibits include *Global Matrix II*, a two-year traveling exhibition of international printmakers organized by Purdue University.

Katz has also been featured in Carol Pulin’s 2001 *Contemporary Impressions* article, “April Katz.” She has presented papers for the Southern Graphics Council, Society for Photographic Education, International Visual Literacy Association and International Impact Printmaking conferences.

A variety of Chinese advertising posters from the 1920s and 1930s, which are on loan from the collection of Charles and Ginger Lozar, will be displayed in the Wakeley Gallery. “The nostalgic era of the 1920s and 1930s in China is reflected in all its glory in this compilation of calendar art, posters, cigarette advertisements and display signs from bygone days of a newly-emerging urban China,” write Chaonan Chen and Yiyou Feng in their book *Old Advertisements and Popular Culture: posters, Calendars and Cigarettes, 1900-1950*.

For additional information, contact Carmen Lozar, director of the Merwin and Wakeley Galleries, at (309) 556-3391

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