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## Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Feature Paintings and Ceramics

August 25, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's Merwin and Wakeley Galleries (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington) will feature the artwork of Michiko Itatani, as well as the ceramic work of Lou Pierozzi, from Thursday, Sept. 2 through Thursday, Sept. 30.

All exhibits are free and open to the public. The opening reception for both exhibitions will take place on Thursday, Sept. 2 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Itatani's display, consisting of eight works from 2002-2010, is centered around the theme of "Cosmic Wanderlust" and will be shown in the Merwin Gallery. "I am presenting my personal fiction based on the human desire to reach out into the mental and physical space beyond our grasp," said Itatani. A professor at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she is the recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Marie Sharp Walsh New York Studio Grant and John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, among others. Her paintings have been shown nationally and internationally. Itatani received her master's degree in fine arts at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1976.

Pierozzi's ceramic display, *Rediscovering America*, will be featured in the Wakeley Gallery. "My vessels, although functional, draw upon a unique time in history when machines first became mainstream. My ceramic pieces look to emulate the visual weight and mechanical parts that were present in these historical objects," said Pierozzi of his work. An adjunct art professor at Oakton Community College, he has been working in ceramics for over 19 years. His artwork has been displayed in numerous exhibitions and galleries throughout the country. Pierozzi received his master's degree in fine arts at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 2001.

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.

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

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