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## Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Feature Photography and Glasswork

October 26, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's Merwin and Wakeley Galleries will feature the work of photographer James Griffioen and glass artist Kaori Koike from Tuesday, Nov. 9 to Thursday, Dec. 9. The galleries are located in the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art Building (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington).

All exhibits are free and open to the public. The opening reception for both exhibitions will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 9 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Griffioen will give a lecture at 4 p.m. in Room 218 of the School of Art Building.

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 for Thanksgiving break, from Nov. 23 to Nov. 28.

A graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, Griffioen was a lawyer until 2006, when he walked away from a career in a large San Francisco law firm and moved his family to Detroit where he now pursues photography.

His photos have appeared in publications such as *Harper's*, *Time*, *Re:public* in Sweden and *Foam* in the Netherlands. He has been featured on CNN, NPR, *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Washington Post* as well. His display, "The Disappearing City," held in the Merwin Gallery, will feature photos taken in Detroit. To see more of Griffioen's photography, visit his website at [www.jamesgriffioen.net/](http://www.jamesgriffioen.net/).

Koike, who studied spatial art and design at Joshibi Junior College in Japan, was inspired by the effect of different materials on the life of human beings and how glass plays a role of connecting the outside with the inside. She continued to study glass at the Japanese Glass Art Institute.

In 2003, she came to the United States and graduated from Illinois State University with a bachelor of arts degree in 2008. She currently works as a full-time studio artist and maintains a studio in Champaign, Ill. For more information on Koike, visit her website at [koikeglass.com/](http://koikeglass.com/).

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

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