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New Exhibitions on Display at Galleries in May

April 19, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's Merwin and Wakeley Galleries will host new exhibitions from Thursday, May 5 to Friday, May 27. Merwin will feature a digital images installation by Naomi Schliesman and Keith Lemley, and Wakeley will display woodworking by Dennis French.

The exhibition will begin with an opening reception on May 5 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the galleries. The reception will include a gallery talk by the artists at 4:15 p.m.

The galleries are located in the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art Building (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington). Regular hours are Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Schliesman and Lemley are a collaborative team. In their work, as they describe it, "pattern and imagery from the physical environment are pared down to a minimal essence and combined with indecipherable digital renderings; implying the presence of the objects and memories from which they are produced."



Artwork by Naomi R. Schliesman and Keith Lemley

Dennis French received a BFA from Arizona State University in 1977 and an MFA in jewelry design/metal-smithing from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 1983 he joined the art faculty at Illinois State University to teach the Jewelry and Metals Design Program. He retired from ISU in 2009.

French was inspired to work in furniture and home accessories after a trip to Europe in the 1990s. In 2003, he spent a spring sabbatical researching the Vienna Secession in Vienna, Austria; Charles Rennie Mackintosh in Glasgow, Scotland; and the Artist's Colony at Mathildenhöhe in Darmstadt, Germany.



Artwork by Dennis French

French has exhibited nationally and internationally and is represented in many private collections.

For additional information, contact the Merwin and Wakeley Galleries Office at (309) 556-3822.

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