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Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Present Paintings, Installation  
September 12, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan University's Merwin and Wakeley Galleries will feature recent paintings by Xuhong Shang and a custom installation by James Schuyler beginning Tuesday, Sept. 12, and running through Thursday, Oct. 19.

The galleries are located in the Joyce G. Eichhorn Ames School of Art, 6 Ames Plaza West, in Bloomington. All events are free and open to the public.

To open the exhibition, Shang will deliver a lecture in room 218 of the School of Art on Tuesday at 4 p.m. A reception in the galleries will follow the lecture.

Shang's recent painting series, *Momentary*, which will be on display in the Merwin Gallery, is said to "explore the meaning and value of landscape and nature through the lens of both Asian and European traditions." Through his use of color, Shang is said to capture the essence of traditional Chinese landscape paintings in a way that is reminiscent of modern photographic negatives. Born in China, Shang earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Shanghai Teacher's University, a Master of Arts in painting and drawing from Illinois State University and a Master of Fine Arts from Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. Also the recipient of two prestigious fellowships, Shang is currently associate professor of painting at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

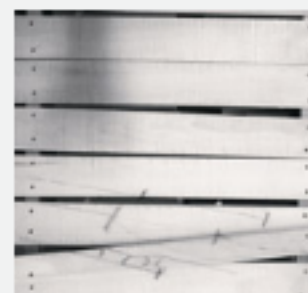
The Wakeley Gallery will present Schuyler's installation, *Line Theory: Ages 10-16*. Specially constructed for the gallery, the piece was designed to present viewers with the impression of an attic filled with boxes, an image taken directly from Schuyler's childhood. The artist described how, when he was young, the increasing number of boxes in his family's attic represented the way his father replaced relationships with purchases. "With every new box that would show up, I would feel a further separation from my father. [The experience] of this separation is the basis for *Line Theory*," he said.

*Line Theory* will be the first major Midwest solo exhibition for Schuyler, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture and studio art and a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing from the University of Notre Dame as well as a Master of Fine Arts in woodworking and furniture design from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Schuyler will be in residence during the first week of the show in order to oversee the completion of the installation. During gallery hours, visitors are welcome to observe the installation process and to speak with Schuyler about his work.

Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday 12-4 p.m., Tuesday evening 7-9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 1-4 p.m., with extended Homecoming Weekend hours from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8.

For more information, contact Jennifer Lapham, director of the Merwin and Wakeley Galleries, at (309) 556-3391.



From James Schuylers' *Line Theory: Ages 10-16*