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May Term Gallery Showings

April 25, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The work of artists Sandi Ginter, Catherine Wiesener and Peggy Shaw will be displayed May 8- May 29 in Illinois Wesleyan's Merwin & Wakeley Galleries (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington).

The exhibits are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 12-4 p.m.; Tuesday evening, 7-9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. The galleries will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 28.

On Thursday, May 10, there will be an opening reception from 4-6 p.m. in the galleries as well as a gallery talk with the artists at 4:30 p.m.

In the Merwin Gallery will be Ginter and Wiesener's concurrent exhibitions. Ginter, who received a MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and currently teaches at Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Ind., uses her work to satire issues that surround being a mother and living in the Midwest and examines bits of Midwestern iconography with the piggyback perspective of a busy, working mom with three small children. She uses color and symbolic form to create small narratives that are all part of a larger tale in which cows and pigs hold particular significance. Larger issues are hinted at, such as genetic cloning, the significance of the individual and the ritualistic nature of living day to day.

Wiesener's work will also be in the Merwin Gallery. Wiesener, who currently teaches ceramics, drawing and video production at the University of Illinois' Unit One Living Learning Community, works with porcelain because of its reference to historical ceramics and its "endless possibilities." She says her inspiration comes from the "idealized portrayal of animals in the media, children's stories and tales of animal heroism." Wiesener says the theme of her work varies piece to piece, but overall, is "an expression of the fascination with the ornate as an extreme mode of human expression, the complex relationship we have with animals and humor as a result of mixing these ideas." Wiesener attended the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

In the Wakeley Gallery will be the work of Shaw, who teaches photography at Parkland Community College in Champaign, Ill. and is represented by Catherine Edelman Gallery in Chicago. Her photographic collages explore the moments between reality and imagination. She gathers objects like twigs, wires, thorns, eggshells and bird nests, juxtaposing them with transparent film images of figures and animals and collaging physical objects with ethereal images. Shaw holds a MFA in photography from the Art Institute of Chicago and has won numerous awards for her work including an Artist Fellowship Award from the Illinois Art Council.

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

Contact: Meg Dubuque, (309) 556-3181



Top: Sandi Ginter - *Red Pig*, slip cast terracotta
Center: Peggy Shaw - *Tomorrow Your Hair Will Be Longer: A Simple Prayer*, photographic film/mixed media.

Bottom: Catherine Wiesener - *Beast Feast*, porcelain, glaze, and gold luster.