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Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Present an Exhibit of Prints and Sculptures

August 29, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The works of printmaker Warrington Colescott and sculptor Andrew J. Kuntz will be on display from Thursday, Aug. 30 through Wednesday, Oct. 5 in Illinois Wesleyan University's Merwin and Wakeley Galleries, located in the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art Building (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington).

All exhibits are free and open to the public.

On Thursday, Oct. 4, there will be an artist's lecture by Colescott from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 218 of the School of Art building. The closing reception for both gallery exhibits will directly follow the presentation and will last approximately one hour.



"Underneath the Oval Office" by Warrington Colescott

The Merwin Gallery will feature *Satirical Conscience*, a collection of prints and paintings by Colescott, an artist who has made his work a platform for commentary on the social and political landscape of America for nearly half a century – from the civil rights movement to the current war in Iraq. As a New Orleans native growing up in Oakland, Calif. in the 1920s, Colescott found inspiration for his earliest drawings in the newspaper comic strip "Krazy Kat" by George Herriman. The lively and populist feel of the Vaudeville stage, as well as his somber experiences as a World War II soldier, continue to influence his work today.

A graduate of the University of California-Berkeley, Colescott's prints are part of the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, the Brooklyn

Museum, the Chicago Art Institute and the Milwaukee Art Museum. Recent pieces include *Underneath the Oval Office...*(2005), an etching that casts Vice President Dick Cheney in the role of White House puppet master, and *A Brief Commercial Break* (2005), a painting that lampoons the corruption of the media by commercial and corporate interests. In the vein of satirists like Mark Twain and Jon Stewart, Colescott actively seeks to use "humor as a way to disarm evil."

One Man's Trash... by Kuntz will be installed in the Wakeley Gallery. Kuntz's found object sculptures are composed of salvaged items from auctions, estates, rummage sales, junkyards and street curbs, and are representative of society's waste. The current body of Kuntz's work has developed steadily over the past six years. His creative process is meticulous and time-consuming, requiring great patience as he sometimes waits years to discover objects that fit together in just the right way.

Born in Lacrosse, Wisconsin, Kuntz graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor's of fine arts in 1990. "My work is an eclectic interpretation of all I have gleaned and absorbed over the course of my life," said Kuntz. "I enjoy the act of salvaging and the notion of giving useless junk a second life."



"One Man's Trash" by Andrew J. Kuntz

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 gallery will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3.

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

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