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Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Present Artwork by Visiting Artists and Students

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From top: Doug Johnson, *Sentinel*, oil on canvas; L.J. Douglas, *Transmigration*, encaustic, drawing transfer and collage; Mark Sumner Forth, *Solitaire*, oil on canvas over panel.

Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Present Artwork by Visiting Artists and Students

June 4, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University School of Art will present an exhibition of three concurrent solo shows featuring the works of artists L.J. Douglas, Doug Johnson and Mark Sumner Forth on display in the Merwin Gallery, and the works of award-winners from the annual juried student show on display in the Wakeley Gallery. The galleries are located in the Joyce G. Eichhorn Ames School of Art Building (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington).

Free and open to the public, the exhibits will run from Sunday, June 10 through Sunday, August 19. During the opening, there will be a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. and, at 2:30 p.m., there will be a gallery talk with the visiting artists.

Summer gallery hours are Friday through Monday from noon until 3 p.m.

L.J. Douglas's *Transmigration*, is an ongoing work that asks the question some call the dilemma of twenty-first century society: Where does a person begin and end? Consisting of over one hundred small encaustic paintings incorporating collage and drawing transfer, *Transmigration* maps a fictive genealogical landscape, representing the connection of all life forms. The paintings are drawn from a variety of sources, including genetic coding, historical figure painting palettes, and biologist and naturalist observations. Born in Philadelphia, Douglas earned a bachelor's of fine arts from the Philadelphia College of Art in 1975. Two years later, she earned a master's of fine arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Landscapist Doug Johnson is intrigued by the collisions between order and disorder so readily found in the wilderness and has been painting natural settings for 15 years. Dedicated to the process of image making, his preferred medium of painting is oils. Johnson, a Bloomington-Normal native, earned a master's of fine arts from Northern Illinois University and serves as the Executive Director of the McLean County Arts Center.

A great stillness is said to pervade paintings by Mark Sumner Forth. Setting statuesque figures in dreamlike surroundings and soft lights, reminiscent of the Dutch Masters, Forth adds a modern sense of storytelling to capture private moments about to unfold. Also Bloomington-Normal native, Forth earned a bachelor's of science from Illinois State University in 1987.

The annual student show, now in its twentieth year, will showcase works by students in painting, graphic design, glass, printmaking, and drawing. Juried winners include Mel Keiser and Matt Martin, class of '07, Bryan Byers and Maria Gonzalez, class of '08, Emily Dieling, Nicole Pizzini, and Alisha Rogers, class of '09, and Emily Cellini, Katelynn DeWitt, and Emily Haager, class of '10.

For additional information, contact Carmen Lozar, gallery director, at (309) 556-3391.

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