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November 8, 2007

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Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Present Perspectives of Nature in New Exhibit

BLOOMINGTON, ILL. – The works of painters Don Pollack and Kathryn O'Grady will be on display from Tuesday, Nov. 13 through Tuesday, Dec. 11 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 Tuesday, Nov. 13, there will be an artist's lecture by Pollack from 4 p.m to 5 p.m. held in Room 218 of the School of Art building. The opening reception for both gallery exhibits will directly follow the presentation.

The Merwin Gallery will feature *American Inheritance*, a collection of oil paintings by Pollack showing the scars of man's intrusion into nature. Critics say that Pollack's paintings have a familiar, reassuring look, which comes from using delicate brushwork and closely valued colour.

Pollack received his BFA in graphic design, from the University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign and a MFA, in painting, from Ohio State University, Columbus. He is the recipient of many awards including a Ford Foundations Grant and an Illinois Arts Council Fellowship Grant. Pollack's paintings are in the collections of The Philbrook Museum, AT&T, Metropolitan Life Insurance Corporation, and the Prudential Insurance Company. He currently teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Green Place by O'Grady will be featured in the Wakeley Gallery. This series of paintings is said by critics to be fueled with a lifelong obsession of color and awe at the monstrous complexity of the natural world.

O'Grady received her BFA from Michigan State University, in East Lansing and an MFA from the University of Texas, in Austin. Her work has been shown in solo and two-person shows

over the past 20 years in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston. Her paintings are in the collections of American Airlines, Mobile Oil Corporation, USAA, MBank, The Dallas-Fort Worth Medical Center, Seton Hospital and Saint David's Hospital in Austin, the Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo and others. She currently lives in Maryland with her family.

For more information on the Merwin and Wakeley galleries, contact the Gallery Director, Carmen Lozar, at (309) 556-3391.