



Winter 1-6-2012

## **Merwin and Wakeley Galleries: New Exhibits for Jan. 10- Feb. 2**

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### **Recommended Citation**

Fields, Kristin, "Merwin and Wakeley Galleries: New Exhibits for Jan. 10- Feb. 2" (2012).  
*News and Events*. 4417.

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January 6, 2012

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## **Merwin and Wakeley Galleries: New Exhibits for Jan. 10 – Feb. 2**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's Merwin and Wakeley Galleries will welcome two new exhibits on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and continue to be on display through Thursday, Feb. 2. Artists Mark Holmes and Paul Krainak will present a collaborative installation in The Merwin Gallery, "Emphatic Objects/Shifting Ground" and Jerry Phillips will present "Dream State" in The Wakeley Gallery.

The galleries are located in the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art Building (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington). Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

All exhibits are free and open to the public. The opening reception for the exhibitions will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 10 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the galleries. Holmes and Krainak will give a lecture at 4 p.m. in room 218 of the School of Art Building.

Largely composed of carpeting, plywood, metal and plastic, Holmes and Krainak's work has been described by some as bridging "an associative gulf between van Doesburg and Menards." According to the artists, the installations reconsider the perceived banality of Midwestern culture and its built environment, maintaining an effacing levity through color and material particularity. Each piece enlists the viewer as a participant in a shifting landscape of overlapping geometries and color.

Born a Palauan American on the Fort Sill Army Base in Oklahoma, Phillips's work reflects traditional images of Palauan folklore, as well as the ocean. After briefly living in Hawaii and Puerto Rico, he moved to Kentucky, where Phillips never imagined he would have found himself, "an islander, residing in a landlocked place for an extended stay," the artist said. Searching for the openness of an ocean while surrounded by land, those in the field note that Phillips's affinity for the sea and the fluidity of water permeate his work.

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

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