



Summer 8-20-2013

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Recommended Citation

Dhue, Hannah, "September Exhibits at Merwin and Wakeley Galleries" (2013). *News and Events*. 4581.

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Aug. 20, 2013

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September Exhibits at Merwin and Wakeley Galleries

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — From Sept. 3 through Sept. 26, Illinois Wesleyan's Merwin and Wakeley Galleries located in the Joyce G. Eichhorn Ames School of Art building (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington) will present two new exhibits. Opening in the Merwin Gallery will be "Play" by Grace Sheese and the Wakeley Gallery will host Margaret Wright's "Almost Out The Door: Stories of Adolescence."

On Tuesday, Sept. 3, there will be an opening reception for both exhibits in the galleries from 5 to 6 p.m. and at 4 p.m., there will be a lecture by Sheese in room 218 of the School of Art.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 12 to 4 p.m., Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Sheese currently lives and maintains her studio in Bloomington. After teaching third and fourth grade for seven years, she is committed to being a full-time studio potter. Her work has been shown at The Clay Studio, Red Star Studios and the Archie Bray Foundation among others. She received a master's of fine arts degree from Illinois State University in 2009.

Regarding her exhibit titled "Play," Sheese writes, "By highlighting the ordinary and the extraordinariness of handmade pottery, I hope to invite the user to pause and take a deep breath, to consider and reconsider the work and in doing so, experience a moment of awareness."

Wright is a photo-based artist with an enduring interest in what happens over time between people. She has exhibited extensively and received numerous grants and professional awards for her artwork. Currently working as a photographic portraitist and teacher at Columbia College, Chicago, Wright received a bachelor's of fine arts degree from The Art Institute of Chicago and a master's of fine arts degree from Columbia College, Chicago. A lifelong Chicagoan, she is a founding member of the collective Standard Usage Project, which seeks to expand the vocabulary of still photography.

Wright's "*Almost Out The Door: Stories of Adolescence*" exhibit is a series of contemporary portraits of adolescents made by digitally recombining many separate moments to evoke the complex narrative that evolves over time as these teens connect and disconnect with each other and with adults, balancing the world of their friends and the world of their families. The digitally photographed and collaged panoramas are printed on archival media and face-mounted on aluminum.

For additional information on the exhibitions and the Merwin and Wakeley Galleries, visit: www.iwu.edu/art/galleries/CurrentlyShowing1.html or contact Carmen Lozar, director of the galleries at (309) 556-3391.

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