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Merwin and Wakeley Galleries Present New Exhibits

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Merwin and Wakeley Galleries Present New Exhibits

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Local sculptor Melanie Hunter will deliver a gallery talk today from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Illinois Wesleyan University's Merwin and Wakeley Galleries (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington). Hunter's sculptures, along with an exhibit by photographer Tom Uttech, are on display at the galleries until Dec. 5.

All exhibits and events are free and open to the public. 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 Thanksgiving from Nov. 25 through 30 and on Dec. 1 for A Day Without Art.

Hunter's *Auscultations*, a series of glass sculptures, are featured in the Wakeley Gallery. The exhibit explores the nature of connection and communication through familiar forms. Using iconic objects, Hunter attempts to navigate the divide between symbolism and functionality, representation and experience.

An Illinois State University graduate with a master's in fine arts, Hunter is the glass casting technician to artist Nicolas Africano and has more than 20 years experience in the medium. She also produces welded steel furniture and other architectural pieces through her partnership with Pierce Hunter Studio. A native of England, she earned a bachelor's degree from Sunderland University in England.

Black and White Photographs by Tom Uttech are on display in the Merwin Gallery. Cited by critics as one of the most widely-admired landscape artists in America, Uttech's work in photography and painting is largely inspired by locations in Canada's North Woods and wilderness sites in Minnesota. According to information about the artist, Uttech has shot thousands of rolls of black-and-white-film over the past four decades.

A professor for more than 30 years, Uttech taught at the Arkansas Art Center in Little Rock and the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. He earned a bachelor's degree from Layton School of Art in Milwaukee and a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati.

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

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