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## Galleries to Debut New Exhibit

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## **Galleries to Debut New Exhibits**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University Merwin and Wakeley Galleries located in the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art Building (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington), will feature the work of Bob Dixon and Amy Rueffert from Wednesday, May 6 through Friday, May 29.

An opening reception for the artists will be held on Thursday, May 7 from 4 to 6 p.m. with a talk by the artists at 4:30 p.m.

The exhibits are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 12 to 4 p.m., Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. The galleries will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 25.

Dixon's collection of ceramic work, titled "Transitions," will be on display in the Merwin Gallery. Dixon, professor of art emeritus at the University of Illinois, Springfield, has been included in publications such as "The World Encyclopedia of Ceramic Art and Artists" and "Works by Ceramic Artists from Around the World." His work was represented in Beijing at the first conference of the International Society for Ceramic Art Education and Exchange, held at the Academy of Arts and Design, Tsinghua University.

"I concentrate on the forming of the work into which the surface becomes united, and thus a rhythm of the parts displayed. The work then displays the sense of an ordered system and movement. Even when entirely spontaneous, the work confronts me with a willed order, and form becomes the aesthetic concept," said Dixon of his work.

The Wakeley Gallery will feature Rueffert's display of glass sculptures, titled "bric-a-brac." Rueffert has worked in glass since 1994. She earned her BFA from Massachusetts College of Art in 1998 and pursued independent study at Ohio State University with Ruth King. She received scholarships for study at Pilchuck Glass School and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. Rueffert received her master of fine arts at Mills College in Oakland, Calif., where she studied sculpture and ceramics with Ron Nagle. While at Mills she was an Eklind fellow and the recipient of the Jay DeFeo Prize.

Rueffert presented solo exhibitions at Vetri International Glass, Bubba-Mavis Gallery, Bellevue Museum of Art and William Traver Gallery in June 2008. Her work is included in the collections of the Corning Museum of Glass and the Tacoma Museum of Glass and has been recognized in New Glass Review. She was a finalist for the Elizabeth R. Rafael Founder's Prize at the Society of Contemporary Crafts in Pittsburgh, Penn., and her work was selected for the 2007 International Exhibition of glass in Kanazawa, Japan. Rueffert has taught at The Studio at The Corning Museum of Glass, Pilchuck Glass School, The Glass Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. She ran the glass department at San Jose State University during the 2006-2007 school year.

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

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