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Chicago Art Gallery Exhibits IWU Professor's Paintings

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*Illinois, Other
Cent. Il**Chicago, Ill.*

July 9, 1993

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181**"Silent Journey"****Chicago Art Gallery Exhibits IWU Professor's Paintings**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The Carole Jones Gallery in Chicago is showcasing the paintings of Miles Bair, director of the School of Art at Illinois Wesleyan University, in a solo exhibition, "Silent Journey," July 9-Aug. 1.

The exhibition of 10 paintings, created in 1992-93, features mixed-media and textured works. Many of the paintings employ powder pigments in a medium, acrylic paint, and materials such as sand and modeling plastic. The canvasses range in size from 36-inches by 46-inches to 66-inches by 92-inches.

An opening reception for the exhibit is set for today (July 9) at 5-8 p.m.

"It's always exciting," Bair said, "to take your work out of the studio and display it in a big, well-lighted space. I always consider exhibits as benchmarks--they're good for an artist's development because exhibitions put art in a social environment.

"When an artist's work is exhibited," Bair added, "art becomes a dialogue. People see it and they talk to you about it. It provokes discussion and forces an artist to think about his or her work--that helps you grow."

Among the works exhibited is "Atonement," which employs the images of three fish and an iron gate--elements similar to what Bair saw at the Church of Atonement in Wisconsin--and a tree.

"This work," Bair said, "reflects my yearning, my love of nature, and my need for civilization. It also reflects a technique of mine--putting things in my paintings from different places and combining them in different ways."

Another of Bair's paintings, "Iris Garden," deals with his fascination with the flower, which is depicted in an unusual and dramatic context.

In 1991, eight of Bair's paintings were exhibited at the Tokyo International Art Exposition at the Harumi International Center. When Bair was in Japan last month, he met a woman who purchased two of his paintings from the exposition, an experience he described as "incredibly rewarding."

During his career, Bair has had 15-20 solo exhibitions at places ranging from the C.G. Jung Institute of Chicago and the Harmon Fine Art Center

Gallery at Drake University to the Moming and Monroe galleries in Chicago and the Kirkland Fine Arts Center, Studio Gallery at Millikin University. His work also has been exhibited at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, Peoria's Lakeview Museum, Rosenthal Gallery of Art in Caldwell, Idaho, and the Art Center Association in Louisville.

Bair, a professor of art, joined IWU in 1979. He earned a bachelor of science degree at Edinboro State College in Pennsylvania; a master's degree in art education from Edinboro University; and a master of arts degree in painting from West Virginia University, where he was a teaching fellow.

Bair was a faculty member and chairperson of the Art Department at Thiel College in Greenville, Pa.; an assistant professor of art at West Virginia University; and an assistant professor and chairperson of the Art Department at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn.

He has served on the executive board of the McLean County (Ill.) Arts Council, Central Illinois Art Consortium Planning Committee, St. Cloud (Minn.) Arts Council; Central Minnesota Arts Council; and he was appointed by the Minnesota State Legislature to the Regional Arts Task Force.

Bair has been a visiting lecturer at Drake University, Millikin University, St. Cloud State University, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Steubenville.

The Carole Jones Gallery, 300 W. Superior St. in Chicago, features the work of international contemporary artists. Gallery Hours are: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. The gallery's phone number is 312/587-8820.