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"Not Just Another [Art] Show" at Illinois Wesleyan's Wakely Gallery

Carol Brockman
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Contact: Carol Brockman, 309/556-3181

free art exhibit
to Carol & Leo J. S.
BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—It's "Not Just Another [Art] Show" at Illinois Wesleyan's Wakeley Gallery. Currently on exhibit are costume and set designs by John Gergel and Curtis Trout while in the adjoining Merwin Gallery offset lithographs by Hanlyn Davies are on display.

Trout's and Gergel's creations are regularly seen in IWU play productions but this exhibit allows viewers a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes work.

Works by Gergel include costume renderings from IWU performances such as "The Importance of Being Earnest", "The Magic Flute", and the upcoming production of "The Sea Gull", and from Nebraska Theatre Caravan Tour productions. Finished costumes on display include a pink Victorian-era dress from "Earnest" and the gold-highlighted costume of Sarastro from "The Magic Flute."

Trout's works include a limited number of costume renderings, focusing more on his backdrop renderings and set renderings and models. His work displays great variety from the handmade set model of the cold, dark dungeon in IWU's production of "The Man of La Mancha" to the bright blue ship deck in IWU's "Anything Goes" to backdrop renderings of lush English gardens.

Works by Davies, an international exhibitor, feature a portion of his offset lithographs from 1974 to 1992. Davies produces his prints using a commercial offset press, commonly used in magazine publications.

Many of Davies' works produce a layering effect. A piece entitled "Weave" (1976) is composed of several layers including a colorful striped background covered by a gray woven piece, which in turn is covered by a piece of paper. The presence of various colored circles of paper, which seem to be created by a paper punch, completes the three-dimensional effect.

Smaller works—approximately 8 inches x 10 inches in size—present views, such as a shooting star, seen through lattice work, therefore continuing the three-dimensional feel.

Larger works of approximately 3 feet x 6 feet in size not only provide additional material for the eye but also encourage the onlooker to stop and decipher the multiple images presented.

Trout is a professor of scene design at IWU and Gergel is a former IWU professor of costume design.

Davies, art department chairperson at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, will be an artist-in-residence at IWU March 10-12. On Monday, March 11, he will present a slide lecture beginning at 7 p.m. in the IWU art building, room 218.

Davies, an alumni of Swansea College of Art in Wales, received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale. Aside from lithography Davies also expresses himself through painting.

The Wakeley and Merwin galleries are open Monday through Friday, 12-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Both shows run until March 16.