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Landscapes and Portraits

**Artist Arrah Lee Gaul's Paintings
on Display at Illinois Wesleyan University**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—The Arrah Lee Gaul: Landscapes and Portraits, the Illinois Wesleyan University Collection, opens June 13 and runs through Aug. 30, 1999, in IWU's Merwin Gallery of the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art, 302 E. Graham St., Bloomington.

With the exception of Sunday, July 4, when the gallery will be closed for the holiday, summer hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. For groups of 15 or more, special arrangements can be made to view the exhibit by calling (309) 556-3077.

To honor her father's memory, artist, teacher and world traveler Arrah Lee Gaul bequeathed her personal and artistic estate to IWU upon her death in 1980 at age 92. Gaul's father, the Reverend Dr. Christian Lee Gaul, who shared a middle name with his daughter, was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree by IWU in 1899.

Gaul, who left 150 canvases to IWU, graduated from the Philadelphia School of Design for Women (PSDW) in 1910. PSDW, founded during America's Industrial Revolution, and now known as Moore College of Art and Design, was the first school of

art for women in the U. S. After graduation, Gaul began the first of 10 transatlantic travels to Europe and the Near and Far East.

Gaul spent two years living and working in Japan and was an art teacher at PSDW for 40 years. She was also one of the pioneering members of The Philadelphia Ten, an ever-changing group of female painters trained at PSDW (Moore) who exhibited between 1917 and 1945.

Gaul was chosen to be the official artist for the 1926 U.S. sesquicentennial celebration held in Philadelphia. Gaul's great-great grandfather had lived next door to American flag designer Betsy Ross.

A prolific painter whose career spanned eight decades, Gaul considered herself a portraitist. Art critics describe Gaul as an artist who "finds and reflects the pleasant side of life." She was known to turn out a canvas a day and was referred to as the "Tintoretto of locale painting in her indefatigability," according to an article written by Ellen Achin Myers, assistant director of IWU's art galleries and curator of the Gaul exhibit.

According to a brochure by Myers, "in 1924, during Gaul's travels to Europe and Turkey, she completed 75 paintings, out-of-door sketches executed in the impressionistic manner, done at the rate of more than one a day."

Gaul had numerous group and solo exhibitions in Paris, London, Tokyo and New York. Two of Gaul's paintings were shown in 1931 at the Grand Salon des Champs Elysees, 60 paintings at the "Sesquicentennial Paintings of Arrah Lee Gaul" at The Art Club at Philadelphia where Gaul was the first woman to have a solo show, 58 paintings of gardens and flowers at the Beaux Arts Gallery in London, 38 paintings at New York City's Newcomb-Macklin Galleries, the American Embassy in Tokyo and Japan's

National Art Gallery Ueno-Tokyo in the 1950s and in 1975 an exhibition at the Woodmere Art Gallery in Pennsylvania.

Today, selected collections of Arrah Lee Gaul's work are at the Memorial Art Institute of the University of Rochester, New York; the Reading Public Art Museum, Pennsylvania; the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Washington County Museum of Fine Art, Hagerstown, Md., as well as the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art at IWU.

"The Arrah Lee Gaul show is a marvelous summer exhibition with exotic subjects and vibrant paint," said Miles Bair, professor and director of IWU's Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art. The Gaul paintings and drawings from this exhibition are drawn entirely from the Illinois Wesleyan University Collection. The exhibition features landscapes and portraits providing a vivid summary of the subjects and styles of Gaul during her long and distinguished artistic career. We are very pleased to be able to share these works, many of which are familiar to the campus community, with the Bloomington-Normal community.

"I am especially thankful to Ellen Myers, assistant director of the university galleries and curator of the Gaul exhibit for her extensive efforts in organizing this exhibition. Myers conducted extensive research into the career of Gaul. We have long been aware that Gaul was a gifted painter, however the more that we learned about Gaul and her career, the more excited we became about the scope and content of the show."