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Immediate Release: "Contemporary Chicago Imagists" to Open Mar. 1 in Merwin Gallery

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--"Contemporary Chicago Imagists" is the title given to the painting exhibition which will open tonight (Mar. 1) in the Merwin Gallery at Illinois Wesleyan University.

The show, which will be open from 1-4 p.m. daily and 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays through Mar. 25, will be one of the most important shows to date at Wesleyan according to Miles Bair, director of the school of art.

The show includes work from 11 artists "whose work began to emerge as a significant element on the national scene about 20 years ago," Bair said.

Names such as Roger Brown, Art Green, Philip Hanson, Gladys Nilsson, Jim Nutt, Ed Paschke, Christina Ramberg, Suellen Rocca, Barbara Rossi, Karl Wirsum and Ray Yoshida will be included in the show.

The artists, individually and collectively, have exhibited in many of the major galleries and art institutes in the United States and abroad, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Smithsonian Institution, Washington; National Museum of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Scotland; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; and the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans.

Paschke and art critic Dennis Adrian will share a lecture on the show and the Chicago imagist movement at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 9, in the School of Art building.

The program, which will be open free to the public, will be part of Illinois Wesleyan's Fine Arts Week, Mar. 8-12. Adrian is credited with helping to clarify the work of these artists in his writings, starting in the 1970s.