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‘Polarities and Intersections’
Title of New Exhibit at University Art Gallery

SAN LUIS OBISPO – “Polarities and Intersections --The Constructed Image: New Approaches in Contemporary Photography” is the title of a new exhibit on view from Friday, Sept.26, through Friday, Oct.31, in the University Art Gallery at Cal Poly.

The exhibition showcases two photographers’ contemporary approaches to constructing photographic images.

Brian Taylor, a professor at San Jose State University, prefers to use historical processes and create handmade books. Stanley Smith, head of Imaging Services at the J. Paul Getty museum, uses an all-digital process.

As part of the exhibit, the artists will speak from 5 to 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, in the Business Rotunda, Room 213. A reception will follow from 6 to 7 p.m.

Cal Poly photography Professor Eric Johnson, who is also the show’s curator, was drawn to the artists’ contrasting styles. “Obviously the big difference in the work is color vs. black and white, as well as digital and more traditional photography, but intersections also exist. I think both artists comment on time and memory,” Johnson said.

While Taylor’s books have many pages, each book is framed behind Plexiglas, forever locked to that one page. “I like the idea of making art that contains some imagery that can be sensed but not seen,” Taylor said.

Smith’s large-scale digital prints push the limits of technology. He collects multiple images of places or events over time, then uses digital tools to layer those brief moments into one photographic print. In one image, “Santa Monica Beach, July 4th”, the same cast of characters repeats over and over again, seamlessly woven together. “I enjoy thinking about sequential events that normally may elude a photographer,” Smith says.

The University Art Gallery is in Dexter Hall next to the Kennedy Library at Cal Poly. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information visit the University Art Gallery Web site at: http://artdesign.libart.calpoly.edu .

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(Note to Editors: Images are available from Jeff Van Kleeck at jvanklee@calpoly.edu.)