ALUMNI FORTUNATE ENOUGH to have studied under Robert Reynolds and James Hayes already know the emeritus professors as genuine masters in their respective fields of fine art and journalism.

Now the rest of the nation can glimpse the work of these singular talents together in “The Art of Robert Reynolds: Quiet Journey,” a 176-page hardbound book published in October.

The collaborative effort showcases 178 paintings of the Central Coast and the California Sierras, alongside written musings by both Hayes and the artist. Shirley Howell (JOUR ’80), who studied under Reynolds, helped design the book.

Spanning 35 years, the watercolor and acrylic works, with occasional renderings in charcoal and graphite, reflect Reynolds’ uncanny eye for detail, and his lasting affinity for rural landscapes.

“His paintings are of places that one longs to experience — to touch, to smell, to feel,” explains Eileen Hultin, a San Francisco arts patron and Stanford art history graduate who wrote the foreword to the book.

Hayes said he welcomed the opportunity to work with his friend of three decades. “Robert is a grassroots representational artist,” he said. “He is a painstaking craftsman who has mastered his tools so well that his most carefully designed works give the illusion of being offhand.”

Reynolds, a Central Coast native and San Luis Obispo resident, taught at Cal Poly for 35 years. A former chairman of the Art and Design Department, he is a past recipient of both the Distinguished Teaching Award and the President’s Arts Award. He continues to lead painting workshops in the Sierra Nevada and on the Central Coast.

In addition to winning numerous awards, Reynolds’ paintings have been published in art books and national periodicals. His “Vineyard Radiance II,” for example, graces the cover of this year’s installment of “Splash,” the prestigious biennial review of contemporary watercolor painting. Four other Reynolds works appeared in previous editions of “Splash.” A selection of his paintings, which are popular with collectors nationwide and abroad, can be viewed on his Web site, www.robertreynoldsart.com.

Hayes became a newspaperman after serving in the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. Over the course of a 40-year career, he served as both a newspaper writer and editor and taught at universities in four states and Egypt. For the last 20 years he has been a consultant, coaching writing and editing at government agencies and in the private sector, including the Associated Press and the Los Angeles Times. He’s now concentrating on his memoirs and short-story writing at his Los Osos home overlooking Morro Bay. Former students can catch up with him through his Web site at www.writeasy.com.

“The Art of Robert Reynolds: Quiet Journey” is available at Cal Poly’s El Corral Bookstore and at Cal Poly Downtown in San Luis Obispo. Copies also can be ordered via phone at (805) 756-1161 or online at www.elcorralbookstore.com/books. The cost is $79. Most of the sales proceeds will benefit the Cal Poly Alumni Association.