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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thai Artists To Be Featured At Cal Poly University Art Gallery Feb. 11- Mar. 9

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Four artists, all faculty members from Silpakorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, will exhibit their work -- from cast glass to video projection -- in an exhibit to run Feb. 11 through March 9 in Cal Poly's University Art Gallery.

The exhibit is titled "Pacific Cross Currents." A talk and opening reception are planned from 4 to 6 p.m. Feb. 11, also in the University Art Gallery.

Vichoke Mukdamanee, a member of the painting faculty at Silpakorn University, will describe Thai art in general and the featured work of his colleagues Vichai Sithiratn, Amrit Chusuwan, Saravuth Duangjumpa and Adool Booncham.

Vichai Sithiratn's cast glass work, titled "Mind to Mind, Dharma to Dharma" will be featured.

"Vichai's installation of clear glass Buddhas are intended to help lead people to behave positively," explained Barbara Morningstar coordinator of the University Art Gallery. "He says he is convinced that 'such a path will in turn lead to a serene mind and the birth of wisdom.' "

Chusuwan's installation, "Silent Communication," features video projection and two-sided mirrors with the image of Buddha and a real person staring at each other.

"At certain angles and distances, one will see the face of Buddha and the person merging with each other," Morningstar said. "At other distances and angles, the two images are separated. Amrit's work is a reflection of communication that inspires the viewer's imagination in regard to a 'dialogue' between man and priest."

Saravuth Duangjumpa's installation concerns sound and human

communication.

"His 'Sound Walls' demonstrate how human beings communicate and how sounds come into existence," Morningstar said. "Saravuth brings images of sound, -- some boisterously echoing each other and some expressing a wide range of mood and emotions."

Booncham's work deals with attachments and death.

"As a Thai artist," Morningstar said, "Adool believes the living can deliver things they wish to send acquaintances, loved ones or benefactors in the 'other world.' Adool thus creates forms, such as balloons tied to pillows, to show how objects could float to intended people in the 'new world.'"

Pacific Cross Currents is part of an exchange of Thai and American art that was exhibited in Bangkok during the summer of 2002 at Silpakorn University. During that exchange several artists from Cal Poly's Art and Design Department faculty visited Bangkok to be part of the exhibit. The Cal Poly faculty members who participated were Sky Bergman, Tera Galanti, Michael Barton Miller and George Jercich.

The University Art Gallery, in the Dexter Building, is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, contact the University Art Gallery at 756-1571 or 756-6038.

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