Exhibits open at Sac State galleries

“Three Sisters Bound to the Elements” is the first of two free exhibits kicking off the Spring semester in Sacramento State’s Library galleries.

The exhibit by Chinese-born sisters Hong, Bo and Ling Zhang displays works based on the three elements of water, earth and wood, and their interconnectiveness. It runs Feb. 1-May 24 in the University Library Gallery. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

The Zhangs’ works show how the elements are bound together – wood grows in the earth, the earth absorbs the water, and wood needs water to grow. As they are bound together, so are the sisters’ individual works bound together in one exhibition that includes charcoal drawings, watercolors on rice paper, and ink and pencil.

Hong Zhang is a Sacramento State alumna, receiving her master of fine arts degree in 2002 and her bachelor’s from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing.

Hong’s twin sister, Bo Zhang, received her bachelor of fine arts degree in printmaking from Beijing Central Academy of Fine Arts. She then attended Georgia State University in 2004. In addition to her artwork, Bo Zhang works as an art consultant for the Beijing office of Soho Myriad, an art consulting service.

Eldest daughter Ling Zhang witnessed the Chinese Cultural Revolution and received her master of fine arts from Beijing Central Institute of Nationalities in 1988. She came to the United States, and decided to stay, in the late 1980s to share her works at the invitation of Signet Fine Art, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Illinois governor.

All three artists have exhibited works around the world.

A reception will be held 4-5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, and will include a talk by the artists. Hong Zhang also will give a talk, “Middle Kingdom Meets Middle America,” at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 7, in the gallery.

The second exhibit, “Transparency,” runs Feb. 12-March 16 in the University Gallery Annex. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 in the gallery.
Curated by Ethan Flanagan, the exhibit is a collection of photographs taken by first-time photography students in the Nicaraguan fishing village of Padre Ramos, and by young women in India who were formerly forced into lives of abuse and sex slavery.

“The Padre Ramos children use donated cameras to capture images of their environment in honest, intimate and sensitive ways,” Flanagan says.

For the Indian women, photography is part of their rehabilitation. “They’ve learned to use photography to communicate without words and see their lives and themselves from a new perspective,” Flanagan says.

For more information on the galleries, visit www.al.csus.edu/sota/ulg or call (916) 278-4189. For media assistance, call Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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