

For immediate release – March 10, 2014

Re: University Museum art exhibition: *Roots and Wings: Maura Koehler Keeney and David Tomb*

The University Museum celebrates spring with a colorful exhibition of paintings and drawings, *Roots and Wings: Maura Koehler Keeney and David Tomb*, April 5 through May 17, 2014. The public is invited to a free opening reception on Saturday, April 5, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The featured artists share a connection to nature – a fascination with the intricacies of its life forms and a concern for their struggles to survive in changing climates. Maura Koehler Keeney’s early work focused on printmaking and drawing and has evolved to painting with oil on large canvases. Her bold paintings of plant forms magnify their details and emphasize the play of light on petals, leaves, bark, and intertwined roots. “By studying a minute part I am looking to understand the whole. In fact, the wondrous complexities of one chestnut on a tree or one tree in a forest can help us in comprehending much of our world.” Keeney received her BS and MA from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and has exhibited throughout Pennsylvania and New York, including award-winning works at the Westmoreland Art Nationals, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, and Penn State University’s Robeson Gallery, among others.

David Tomb describes himself as a “bird nerd kid” with a BFA in painting and drawing from California State University, Long Beach, who spent 20 years painting portraits before returning to his first love – birds. His colorful paintings and drawings are inspired by birding trips and his research at science institutions in California and New York. Currently his work is focused on birds of the Philippines. In 2011 he visited Mindanao there to see the endangered Philippine eagle. He is a co-founder of Jeepney Projects Worldwide – Art for Conservation, which supports local efforts to advocate for endangered species and foster habitat conservation. Tomb has exhibited nationally and his work is in the collections of The Huntington Library, the Oakland Museum, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines, and the Consulate General of the United States: Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana.

For more information about the artists and their work, visit these websites:

www.maurakoehlerkeeney.com, www.davidtomb.com, and www.jeepneyprojects.org

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Indiana Garden Club will provide living materials arrangements based on individual art works. The arrangements will be displayed at the opening reception and during the following week, and a People’s Choice Award will be determined by the votes of visitors to the exhibition during that week.

Two exhibition tours with the artists will be offered to the public, free of charge in the museum:

Saturday, April 5, 2014, 4:00–5:00 pm. – David Tomb: Walk and Talk with the Artist

Wednesday, April 23, 5:00–6:00 pm. – Maura Koehler Keeney: Walk and Talk with the Artist

By invitation, a Happy Hour for Educators will take place in the museum on April 15, 4:30–6:00 p.m. Watch the University Museum website for information about additional exhibition-related events: www.iup.edu/museum

The University Museum is located in the north wing, first floor, of Sutton Hall. All University Museum exhibitions are free to the public. This exhibition is supported, in part, by the Student Cooperative Association at IUP and by private donations. The museum also receives funding through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts through the Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance.

The museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. 2:00–6:30 p.m.; Thursday, noon–7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, noon–4:00 p.m. The museum is closed Sunday, Monday, and all university holidays. For additional information, and to schedule group tours of the exhibition, please contact Leslie Kluchurosky at 724-357-2397.