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## **Divine Word College Art Exhibit Honors the Legacy of Jac Tilton**

**(Epworth, Iowa)** – Divine Word College is pleased to announce *Legacy*, an exhibit and benefit sale at the on-campus Weyland Art Gallery featuring watercolor paintings and drawings of the late Jac Tilton — a beloved Dubuque artist, educator, and arts advocate.

The artwork will be on display from August 4 through September 26, and the gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by appointment.

The collection includes original framed watercolors, matted works never before exhibited, and monochrome drawings in graphite, carbon, and charcoal, as well as art related merchandise.

Exhibit proceeds will support the Jac Tilton Memorial Art Education Fund, which is currently aiding the development of an expressive art therapy program at The Lantern Center in Dubuque—a nonprofit serving immigrants and refugees. This initiative reflects the shared passion of Jac and his wife, Chris Chapin-Tilton, for hospitality and building bridges through the arts.

"Throughout our marriage, Jac and I welcomed international students and visitors to our home," Chapin-Tilton said. "We strongly believed their global viewpoints not only strengthened our community but also broadened our own horizons while enriching our family life. We felt similarly about Dubuque's newcomers served by The Lantern Center. During Jac's illness, we created the Jac Tilton Memorial Art Education Fund to support creative programs in local nonprofits. This newest project -- to initiate a Lantern Center expressive art therapy program -- combines our interest in the arts with helping to create a welcoming presence for global newcomers to our community."

Tilton's art often explored themes of rust, ruin, and physical decay. His watercolor subjects—frequently overlooked or aging structures—captured rich textures that fascinated him not for their nostalgia, but because the color, texture and overall patina cannot be artificially created. In his watercolors, Jac used a combination of washes, glazes, and dry brush techniques to achieve subtle variations in color and tone. His monochrome works reflect a layered process of applying, smearing, erasing, and reapplying until the desired balance of contrast, value, and texture emerged.

Visit the Weyland Art Gallery to experience the enduring creative vision of Jac Tilton and his legacy of community engagement through art.

**About Divine Word College:** Divine Word College is the only Roman Catholic undergraduate seminary in the U.S. dedicated to educating men and women for missionary service. It was established and is operated by the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), the largest missionary order of priests and brothers in the Roman Catholic Church.

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