

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Ellyn Moller Akillian Gallery Director
Massasoit Community College
Phone: 781-821-2222x2124**

Date: 11/8/06

AKILLIAN GALLERY PRESS RELEASE

College to donate mural for Sensory Room at Taunton State Hospital

PUBLIC INVITED TO ONE DAY VIEWING and PRESENTATION TO TAUNTON STATE HOSPITAL

Tuesday, December 5, 2006, 11:30 – 12:30pm

Wall Mural Presentation to Taunton State Hospital

Canton, MA—Massasoit Community College, [Akillian Gallery, 900 Randolph St. Canton, MA 02021](#). Massasoit Community College, Canton campus will have an open viewing on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2006 at 11:30 A.M. The mural entitled “East to West”, will be part of a Sensory Room at Taunton State Hospital. Sensory therapy began in Europe some time ago. The idea behind this intervention is to provide a multi-sensory environment that allows patients to experience stimulation techniques that can decrease agitation and stress. A Sensory Room may also include aromatherapy, calming lights, etc.

Massasoit Prof. Robert Priest and Sanford R. Epstein, Director of Community Resources at Taunton State Hospital collaborated on the project. The mural was painted by three Visual Arts students, Charlotte Mao of Norton, Marion LaFlamme of Quincy, and Caroline Kulick of Easton. It is composed of five panels, and is a total of 18 ft. long, each depicting a pastoral scene that creates a continuous landscape that transitions from the cool forests of china, to the temperate farmland of Europe to the arid American desert. Looking at the mural “East to West”, will create a calming effect for patients sitting in the Sensory room where the mural will be installed. Massasoit Community College has also been involved in several printmaking projects with the Taunton State Hospital, lending support and commitment to the mentally ill through the arts.

Taunton State Hospital is 150 years old and has been treating clients from all over Eastern Massachusetts since 1854.

All are welcome to attend the presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

This one-day event occurs during the gallery’s scheduled exhibit, “The Annual Small Prints and Ceramics Holiday Sale”, December 1 thru December 8, 2006.

Gallery Hours: Tues.-Fri.10:00-2:00pm, or by Appt. Please call 781-821-2222x 2124.