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CHAMPAIGN — The Murphy Gallery at the University YMCA on Thursday will open an exhibition of work by artist Kim Curtis that marks a collaboration between her and Prairie Rivers Network.

The opening reception will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday; at 7:30 p.m., Curtis and Glynnis Collins, executive director of Prairie Rivers Network, will discuss the paintings and the network.

The show features nearly 20 works from the artist's series, "Thirtyseven," which documents the wetland along the San Francisco Bay area's highway 37.

In "Thirtyseven," Curtis suggests elements of landscape — abstract forms that when viewed at different angles capture a "sense of immediacy," something that is both "familiar and unintelligible" to us, she said.

The original paintings will be available for purchase through the life of the exhibition, through Jan. 19. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Prairie Rivers Network, the Illinois state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

Curtis moved to Illinois following a career in costume design and after obtaining a second degree in painting. A transplant from California, she paints full time in her studio in rural Urbana, where her work reflects the effect of the different landscape.

The University Y is at 1001 S. Wright St., C. All Art @ the Y events are free and open to the public; more information may be found at [universityymca.org/art](http://universityymca.org/art).

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