Tuscaloosa, Alabama - Shelton State Community College visual arts instructor, Jaia Chen, and dance instructor, Lynn Andrews, will collaborate on “In Between,” a body of work that explores the human dancing form suspended in a sequence of time: arms swinging, legs jumping, back folding, body arching, in the boundary between abstraction and representation. The frozen images alternate and shift across this boundary, each image capturing a gesture and creating a word to tell a story.

Lynn Andrews hails from Bettendorf, Iowa and started her dance training at Ballet Quad Cities School of Dance. She graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with a B.A. in Theater/Dance and studied in London at Laban Centre for Contemporary Dance where she received the Professional Diploma in Dance Studies. Ms. Andrews danced for several years in Washington D.C. with “Carla & Company” and “BosmaDance” and taught dance at Catholic University of America, Dance Place, and for a variety of outreach dance programs in the D.C. public schools. She attended the University of Iowa as an Iowa Arts Fellow and completed her M.F.A. in Dance Choreography in 2009. Currently residing in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Ms. Andrews teaches dance at Shelton State and is a University of Alabama Blount Fellow teaching a course about dance and society, while continuing to choreograph and develop new projects in Alabama and other parts of the South.

Jaia Chen is a visual art instructor at Shelton State Community College. She received her B.A. from University of Alabama at Birmingham and M.F.A. from Ohio State University. Ms. Chen was among fifty international artists chosen to attend the prestigious international advanced artist program, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Chen is passionate about art and art history, and her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally. She has won numerous awards including a Pollock-Krasner Grant. During the past eleven years, Ms. Chen has lived and worked on three continents. In America, she taught at Florida State University and Ringling School of Art and Design. In Holland, Ms. Chen was awarded an international artist fellowship at Stitching Foundation. In England, she was a Visiting Professor at The Surrey Institute of Art and Design. In China, she was the director of the international artist program of Shenghua Art Center in Nanjing. She curated several international artists’ exhibitions in China. Her writings and critiques have been published in New York Arts and Chinese Contemporary Art.

The exhibition will run May 3-30 with an opening reception on May 3 from 6-9:00 p.m. The Alabama Art Kitchen is located at 2626 University Blvd. in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The gallery is open on Wednesdays from 6-9:00 p.m., during classes and events, and by appointment. More information is available at www.alabamaartkitchen.com or alabamaartkitchen@gmail.com or by calling the Art Kitchen at 610.304.7812. This projected is supported in part by the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County.

# # #