



Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum

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NIU ART MUSEUM

FRIENDS

Director's Note:

I am looking forward to the upcoming exhibition season at the NIU Art Museum; I think you will too. We have been in conversation with collaborative partners and guest curators for over a year in preparation. The insight we gain from scholars in various divisions of the university and from throughout the nation working with us on these projects enables the Museum to present displays to share with you that would otherwise be well outside our own areas of expertise. These partners bring not only gorgeous and intriguing artifacts to view, but a fresh perspective on examining an array of topics.

Our fall 2014 exhibitions have enabled us to work with the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, the Divisions of Womens' Studies and Gender Studies, Rare Books and Special Collections of the University Libraries, and the Center for Burma Studies, along with the Denison Museum at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Our spring 2015 shows have connected us with colleagues at California State University Long Beach, the Division of Art Education & Design at NIU, and the Anime Association student group at NIU. We are also working once again with our dear friends, artists Ayomi Yoshida & Bidou Yamaguchi.

We have been delighted to work with the following colleagues who have given so much of their time in realizing these projects: **Michael Bennett**, Kendall Brown, Kerry Freedman, Sherry Harlacher, Molly Holmes, Rebekah Kohli, Kristen Myers, Helen Nagata, **Catherine Raymond**, Lynne M. Thomas, and **Sophia Varcados**.

I am most grateful to the generosity of member donors who have come to our aid with special support of the coming year's projects: **Patricia Anne Burke** and **Richard F. Grott**. When you see them, thank them too.

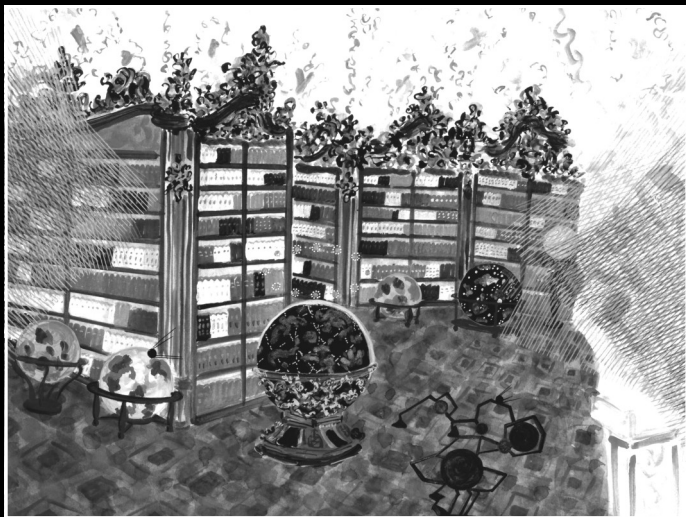
I hope to see you in the museum galleries or *On-The-Bus*.



20 Years at the NIU Art Museum!

Peter Olson was honored at the April Faculty and SPS Luncheon for twenty years of service at NIU. Originally hired as an Art Preparator at the museum shortly after graduating with his MFA in Printmaking, Peter has served as Collection Manager, Curator, and as Assistant Director.

Pictured left to right: NIU President Doug Baker, Peter Olson and NIU Vice President of Operations and Community Relations Bill Nicklas.



Michiko Itatani: "Red Planet" from the series **Hyper Baroque 08-HH08**, 2008, 12" x 16", gouache, ink & Prisma color on paper.



Michiko Itatani: "Unfitted" from the series **Tangent Space**, 1995, 22 ½ x 30", mixed media on paper.

New Prints and Drawings Just Added !

Last fall our *Get-On-The-Bus* Trip for the First Friday Gallery Season Opener in Chicago took us to Linda Warren Projects Gallery where we got to see the latest work of Chicago-based artist Michiko Itatani. The exhibition "Cosmic Kaleidoscope" contained many of her huge paintings as well as dozens of smaller works, several featuring cavernous baroque interiors filled with books and globes. It was a great pleasure to see this new work and the artist again – Michiko had had a solo show at the NIU Art Museum back in 1996 when our gallery was upstairs in the Altgeld auditorium.

Recently, Michiko contacted us stating that she would like to donate some pieces to our collection. This summer, Pete Olson got to visit with her in her studio and picked up 15 works on paper (two lithographs and 13 one-of-a-kind drawings). One of the drawings, "Red Planet", echoed the paintings in the Linda Warren show, and was perhaps a study for one of them.

Throughout her 40 year career, one of Itatani's primary concerns has been representing the struggle between chaos and order. Recently, this has found expression in images of antique books and globes; in the past, through knots of human legs and arms tumbling frenetically through space. There has always been an attempt to organize the fragmented into a larger, coherent system or structure. A grid formed by hundreds of parallel lines, like lines of text, refers back to the artist's beginnings as a writer and is a constant visual motif in her work.

Michiko Itatani is a professor of painting at the Art Institute of Chicago, and has exhibited internationally. Her work is in museum collections here in Illinois, as well as Canada, Switzerland, Japan and Brazil. We are delighted to be able to enrich the NIU Art Museum's permanent collection with her wonderful art work.

Special Thanks to our Spring and Summer Volunteers and Support Crew:

Bus Trip Researchers: Gretchen Moore, Terri Smialek

Designers: Ola Giza, Sophia Varcados, Brad Vetter

Exhibition Consultants and Fabricators: Michael Bennett, Earl Lock, David Parker

Exhibition Lenders (Commercial): Packer Schopf Gallery, Stephen Daiter Gallery

Guards: Jeanette Biava, Meryl Greer Domina

Hoard Item Donors: Jo Burke, Peter Olson, Terri Smialek, Sophia Varcados

IAC Panel Review Note Taker: Patricia Anne Burke

Museum Studies Students: Tiffany Arnold, Mari Oates, Timothy McMillan, Allison Sutton

Poets and Readers for *The Meanings of Objects*: Ricardo Acevedo, John Bradley, Joe Gastiger, Janean Koebbe, Peter Olson, Becky Parfitt, Susan Porterfield, and Rich Rice

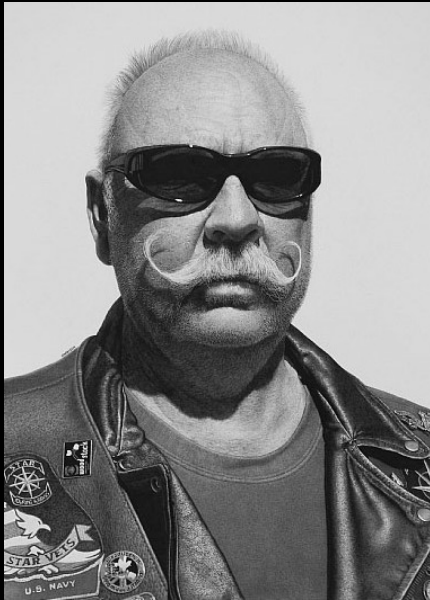


The NIU Art Museum would like to publicly thank art patron **Patricia Anne Burke** (sister of Museum Director Jo Burke) for her extremely generous gift to the museum given with the simple stipulation that the funds be used "to honor our mother," Patricia Laughlin Burke. The museum has spent many months contemplating how best to use these funds. To do so, might take any number of forms in our exhibitions and programs: by media (watercolor, or silk screen, perhaps), by subject (portrait or landscape), or by theme (political cartoons or illustration), all methods or topics of particular interest or practiced by our mom whose monogrammed teaching smocks (made for her by her own mother) read PLB.

A talented artist, fine arts graduate of the University of Illinois, accomplished portrait painter, longtime active member of the Fox Valley and Wayne Art Leagues, Patricia L. Burke raised six children before being widowed in her late forties and then pursuing and receiving her graduate degree in Art Education from NIU as a nontraditional student. She taught art at Saint Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin for twenty years retiring at age seventy. As a retiree, she took on two important volunteer duties: as a hospice volunteer and as English as a second language teacher. It was through her work in ESL that she met and befriended a young Japanese couple, Yukari and Hiroyuki (Henry) Kida. Their delightful and mutually devoted exchange led to the middle names of the Kida boys being Thomas (after our father) and Patrick and a new tradition of serving sushi at our family Thanksgiving. Two years before her death in 2002, mama moved into assisted living at The Holmstad in Batavia where she became well acquainted with the staff and other residents while drawing their portraits in pastel.

In 2014-2015, the **PLB Honor Fund** will be used, in part, to support the NIU Art Museum's hosting the traveling exhibition, *Traditions Transfigured, the Noh Masks of Bidou Yamaguchi*, developed by the University Art Museum at CSU Long Beach in cooperation with Dr. Kendall Brown. This exhibition would have greatly intrigued our mom as she loved portraiture and her Japanese extended family, and she would have greatly appreciated Bidou Yamaguchi's artistic skill and human insight. Additional contributions to the **PLB Honor Fund** are welcomed.

Left, Top to Bottom: Pat and Patty Burke; Pat and Yukari's mom; Pat (PLB) with students at St. Eds. **Center:** Pat Burke, our mom. **Right, Top to Bottom:** Pat painting at Union Pier; Portrait painting of daughter, Molly; PLB giving instruction on the making of art.



Images: (left to right - top)

Bill Harrison, *Big Ben*, carbon pencil on paper, 2011; Mariette Pathy Allen, *Chloe, Kim, and Era, at the Piers, NYC*, from *The Gender Frontier* series, photograph

(left to right - bottom)

Kelli Connell, *Head to Head*, *Double Life* series, photograph; Bren Ahearn, *Sampler #2*, cotton, 2008

Manly Men, Girly Girls and Everybody in Between

How we see and think of ourselves and how others see us are just a few of the issues explored in this exhibition that recognizes and displays a broad spectrum of gender identity.

August 26th - November 15th, 2014

Public Reception: Thursday, September 11th, 4:30 - 6:00pm
Visiting Artist Mariette Pathy Allen lecture to follow.

August 26 - November 15, 2014

Manly Men, Girly Girls and Everybody in Between

Explores expressions of the sex/gender continuum in the arts.

Features work by Bren Ahearn, Mariette Pathy Allen, Kelli Connell, Paul D'Amato, Sean Fader, Jennifer Greenberg, Bill Harrison, Hana Pesut, Libby Rowe, and Michelle Sank. Curated by NIU Art Museum Staff.

Dressing Difference: Exploring Ethnicity in Modern Burma

Questioning concepts of ethnicity and gender through costume and body adornment from the Burma Art Collections at Denison University and NIU.

Curated by Sherry Harlacher, Director, Denison Museum and Catherine Raymond, Curator, Burma Collection at NIU and Director, Center for Burma Studies.

(Re)Defining Womanhood in American Popular Culture

Features selections from NIU's Rare Books and Special Collections.

Curated by Lynne M. Thomas.

LOCAL ARTISTS + COLLECTIONS

January 6 - February 21, 2015

Local Visions

Selections from private area collections. Curated by artists and collectors, Peter Olson and Michael Bennett.

Local Views

Works by select area artists

March 24 - May 22, 2015

Traditions Transfigured:

The Noh Masks of Bidou Yamaguchi

National traveling exhibition combines extraordinary Japanese craftsmanship with iconic Western portraiture to create an uncanny mix of the familiar and the fresh.

Developed by the University Art Museum at CSU Long Beach in cooperation with Dr. Kendall Brown and the CSULB Museum Studies Students. Artworks are on loan from artist Bidou Yamaguchi; the Kelly Sutherland McLeod and Steve McLeod Collection; Scripps College, Claremont, CA; USC Pacific Asia Museum Collection, Gift of Peter Ries; Sebastian Izzard, LLC; and the Target Corporation Collection.

Amerimanga! Convention and Expression features

American artists working in the manga comic tradition.

Curated by Kerry Freedman, Professor and Head, NIU Art + Design Education, and artist Josh Elder, President and Founder, Reading with Pictures.

Manga Mania Comics from NIU's Rare Books and Special Collections and local manga enthusiasts.

Cuteness explores the "big-eyed" phenomenon in contemporary art.

FALL 2014 Programming Schedule

Mark your calendar for these upcoming NIU Art Museum events!

Tuesday, August 26 Regular Gallery Hours commence for Fall, 2014.
10-5 Tuesday – Friday and 12-4 Saturday.

Don't forget, if you have a group that would like to visit the museum outside of these hours and we can muster the staff or volunteers to accommodate them we are happy to oblige. Our gallery spaces are tight and we need to properly safe guard the displays. We can comfortably fit a group no larger than 15, but when possible, if guards and docents are available, we can split your larger group up and move you through the shows with multiple docents to lead you in discussions about the work. We have a group tour request form on our website. www.niu.edu/artmuseum Give us a call so we can work out a solution together 815.753.1936.

Friday, September 5

Chicago Gallery Season Opener
1-10:30; Get-On-The-Bus
\$, Pre-registration required

Thursday, September 11

Fall Shows Public Reception
4:30-6 p.m.; Art Museum

Thursday, September 11

Visiting Artist Talk; Mariette Pathy Allen
6-7:30 p.m.; Altgeld 315

Thursday, September 18

Burma Curators' Informal
Gallery Talks
& Mini Reception for
*Dressing Difference:
Exploring Ethnicity in Modern Burma*
4:30-6:30 p.m.; Art Museum

Friday, September 19

Burma Symposium:
*Imaging the Others:
The Art of Ethnography in Modern Burma*
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Altgeld 315
See the Center for Burma Studies
Web site for listing of speakers
www.niu.edu/Burma

Sunday, September 21

Magritte at the AIC
10:30-6:45, Get-On-The-Bus
\$\$, Pre-registration required

Tuesday, September 23

Film and Discussion Night
7:15 -10 p.m.; Montgomery Hall

Sunday, October 5

NIU Art Museum MEMBERS Program
Reception with talks by
Richard Cooler & Catherine Raymond
1:00-4:00 p.m.; Art Museum

Day TBA, October ____

David Bowie Is... at the MCA
Time tbd, Get-On-The-Bus
\$\$, Pre-registration required; Interest list being
compiled now.

Tuesday, October 14

Visiting Artist Talk; Sean Fader
5-6:30 p.m.; Altgeld 315

Tuesday, October 28

Film and Discussion Night
7:15 -10 p.m.; Montgomery Hall

Wednesday, October 29

Poetry Reading & Recitation Night
Local poets and poetryphiles are invited to
share poems related to gender and identity.
7:15-8:30 p.m., Altgeld 315

Tuesday, November 4

*Mean Girls, Manly Boys, and Anti-feminist Mes-
sages in Kid's T.V.*, Kristen Myers, Director/
Professor Women's Studies & Sociology
5-6:30 p.m.; Altgeld 315

Thursday-Sunday, November 13-16

IU, UI, Brown County GOTBON
Including the Kinsey Institute for Research
In Sex, Gender and Reproduction
\$\$\$, Pre-registration required

Please check as well for
weekly film screenings in the gallery.

Subject to change; please check our website
for the most current information and possible
additions to our programming.

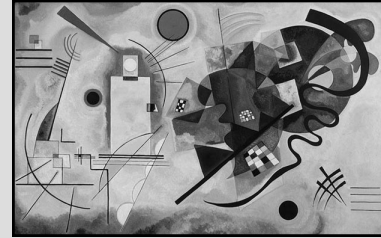
www.niu.edu/artmuseum

These programs offered in conjunction with the exhibitions of the NIU Art Museum have been sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; the Friends of the NIU Art Museum; the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts; the Center for Burma Studies; the Allen Series Fund, Division of Art History, NIU School of Art; the Graduate School; the Gender & Sexuality Resource Center; the Division of Women's Studies; and the Division of Gender Studies, NIU.

Monday, August 18, 2014: Day trip to Wisconsin for a tour of the FLW Johnson Wax Research Tower in Racine and visit to Kandinsky: A Retrospective at the Milwaukee Art Museum

Frank Lloyd Wright's Research Tower at the Johnson Wax Administration campus is at last open for tours and the Milwaukee Art Museum has partnered with the Musée Pompidou for a highly acclaimed exhibition of the colorful works of Wassily Kandinsky, a pioneer of modern abstraction. Neither should be missed!

Bus departs NIU School of Art Parking Lot at 8:30 a.m.; Return arrival @ 8 p.m.
Transportation, Private Tour and Museum Entry: Members: \$50; St/Sr non member: \$55; Other: \$60. Meals on your own. Stairs. We need 20 people to make this trip.
Registration/Payment deadline: Friday, 08/08/14



Friday, September 5, 2014: Chicago Galleries Season Opener

Afternoon art stop in Chicago, or en route, TBA, then West Loop and River North gallery receptions.

Bus departs NIU School of Art Parking Lot at 1 p.m.; Return arrival @ 10:30 p.m. **Transportation:** Members: \$15; St/Sr non member: \$18; Other: \$20 **Registration/Payment deadline: Wednesday, 09/03/14**

Sunday, September 21, 2014: Magritte at the Art Institute of Chicago
Magritte: The Mystery of the Ordinary, 1926-1938 features over

100 paintings, collages, drawings, and objects, along with a selection of photographs, periodicals, and early commercial work in the first major museum exhibition to focus exclusively on the breakthrough years of René Magritte, creator of some of the 20th century's most extraordinary images.



Bus departs NIU School of Art Parking Lot at 10:30 a.m.; Return arrival @ 6:45 p.m. **Transportation:** NIU Art Museum Members: \$12; St/Sr non member: \$15; Other: \$18 **Museum Entry and Meals on Own.** AIC members have free admission to the Art Institute. General ticket admission: Adult: \$23; St/Sr: \$17. **Registration/Payment deadline: Thursday, 09/18/14**

DATE TBA, October: Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago: David Bowie Is...

American venue for international exhibition originated by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London which examines the shifting styles, creativity, and collaborative work of multi-media artist, rock star legend, David Bowie. From androgyne to alien, Bowie has explored various personae in film, song, fashion, and artwork. The exhibition's multimedia design includes advanced sound technology, original animations, and video installations to create an immersive journey through Bowie's artistic life.

Bus departs NIU School of Art Parking Lot at TIME TBA, **Transportation:** NIU Art Museum Members: \$12; St/Sr non member: \$15; Other: \$18. **Museum Entry and Exhibition Tickets:** \$25 each. Tickets go on sale July 31. Our trip date will be announced later. If you wish to be added to an interest list, please let us know.

Thursday-Sunday, November 13-16, 2014: UI-IU-Brown County GOTBON (Get-On-The-Bus Overnighter)

Small group tour will explore art and world culture museums at University of Illinois and Indiana University, including the galleries of the Kinsey Institute for Research on Sex, Gender and Reproduction, as well as the natural beauty and historic artistic heritage of Brown County, Indiana. We will be staying at the quaint shaker-style Artists Colony Inn in the picturesque village of Nashville.

Individual Early Bird Member rates start as low as \$490 (double occupancy). Please see application form on our website for complete pricing on this multi-day trip. Please register by contacting Jo Burke, jburke2@niu.edu **Early Bird Discount Registration/Payment Date: September 9.**
Final Registration/Payment deadline: September 23



Spring Trips are still in the planning stages but likely to include: a daytrip to the museums, studios, and galleries in Bloomington, Illinois; and the Anderson Japanese Garden in Rockford and Mitsuwa Marketplace in Arlington Heights.

Current Members List - Thank You!

Friends:

Renie Adams & David Wagner
 Audre Anderson
 Diana & Steve Arntzen
 Rivka Baker
 Joyce Barker
 Elizabeth & Avi Bass
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Boey
 Deborah & Colin Booth
 Rodney Borstad
 Penny & Ken Cameron
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 DeKalb Area Women's Center
 Jan Devore
 Eileen Dubin
 Kathleen Dust
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 Patsy Lundberg
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 Sheila McHugh
 David McMahan
 Liz Mehren & Joe Shapera

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 Gretchen Moore
 Jan Modloff
 Sharon Nelson
 Julia Olsen
 Rosemarie A. Ostberg
 Dale Osterle
 David A. Parker
 Sherry Lee Patterson
 Kathleen Pawlak
 Darsha Primich & Robert Fleisher
 Linda T. Peterson
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 Anne Rubendall
 Bill & Kathy Scarpaci
 Peggy Simonds
 Rosemarie Slavenas
 Beverly Ann Smith
 Jerry & Ging Smith
 Lester K. Smith
 Lisa Stocksdale
 Charles Larry & Emmylou Studier
 Peggy Sullivan
 Marian Swenson
 Ruth Anne Tobias
 Miles R. Turner
 Johanna & Philip Vandrey
 Dr. Patricia Vary
 Sophia Varcados
 Grace Wahler
 Christine Worley
 Jerrold & Carol Zar
 Estelle Von Zellen
 Mary Von Zellen & James C. Nerstheimer
 Norma Zopp

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 Bill & Jo Monat
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 Terri Smialek
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 Sharon Tourville
 Lynne M. Waldeland

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Corporate Sponsors:

ICON Fine Art Services
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Is it time to renew your membership?

We do not send out reminder notices for membership renewal. Please take a look at the date following your name on the mailing label to see when your current membership is scheduled to expire.

Thank you.

NIU ART MUSEUM



Jo Burke served this summer on the CVPA External Program Director Search Committee and will be leading a campus sculpture tour for Supportive Professional Staff at NIU.

Pete Olson recently attended a workshop, "Archives: Principles and Practices" hosted by the Society of American Archivists, where he learned about many aspects of collections management.

Heather Green is leaving NIU to work as an Adjunct Instructor for Loyola University in Chicago. She will both miss and be missed being part of the art museum staff but will continue to pitch in as extra help on select projects.

Adrienne Miller just got engaged to her long time love (and fabulous poster designer) Brad Vetter! She will join us again as a GA during her final year in the MFA printmaking program.

Tess Michalik has graduated with an MFA in painting. She has applied to various residency programs and plans to move to Brooklyn, NY this summer. She will be dearly missed by all the museum staff.

Christina Warzecha will continue to work at the art museum in the fall as a second year grad student in ceramics who is also pursuing the certificate in museum studies. We are excited to invite her back as our full time GA!

Museum Committees:

Exhibition Advisory Committee:

Audre Anderson
Michael Bennett
Karen Brown
Diane Rodgers
Peter Van Ael

Education Advisory Panel:

Deborah Booth
Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz
Liz Rex
Shei-Chau Wang

Join our listserv for the most up-to-date Art Museum information! E-mail jburke2@niu.edu to sign up for email updates, or find us on the web: www.niu.edu/artmuseum - also on Facebook, Flickr, Artslant & Twitter!

The exhibitions of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the Friends of the NIU Art Museum, and the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

NIU Art Museum
Algeld Hall 116
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
(815)-753-1936
Gallery Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 10:00 - 5:00
Saturday 12:00 - 4:00
by appointment for large groups & tours

