

Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum



NIU Art Museum Vol. 16, Issue 1, Summer 2012

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Welcome New Art Museum Members!!

Anthony & Linda Amettis
Nancy Anderson
Bill & Barbara Atkins
Sherry Kay Cotter
Joanne & Daniel Dillman
Janis & Tom Kirts
James C. Nerstheimer
Martin S. Novak
Darlene Rubino
Rosemarie Slavenas

Thank you for your support!

Director's Notes:

The 2012-2013 Exhibition Season will be starting soon! See schedule on page 2. Our fall exhibitions are offered in conjunction with two exciting international conferences on campus, "Re-imagining Cambodia" September 13 - 16 and the "10th International Burma Studies Conference" October 5-7. There will be some marvelous synchronicity on campus with an exhibition called "The Arts Converge: Contemporary Art and Asian Musical Traditions" curated by Helen Nagata at the Jack Olson Memorial Gallery, September 4 - October 12 and "Rarely Seen Southeast Asia: Art, Artifact, Ephemera" curated by Richard Cooler at the NIU Anthropology

Museum, September 25, 2012 - March 30, 2013. A few music performance highlights in relation to these exhibits are listed on page 3. So mark your calendars!

In our attempts to structure exhibitions thematically, the Exhibition Advisory Committee developed themes for our winter and spring shows which we have approached a little differently this year, posting a public call for entries to bring new artists to our attention. We will also be utilizing works from our museum collection, those of other regional academic institutions, and private collectors and galleries to explore the themes of Vice/Virtue and Mapping. See Members Get Involved on page 4 to see how you might add something to the mix!

This year we will convene another new committee - the Collections Advisory Committee. This group of selected community leaders, museum professionals, artists, and current and former faculty will work with museum staff and interns to update the collections policies, research new, more publically accessible, collections management databases, review donated offerings and possible purchases, and work to develop members' associate groups to focus on enhancement and appreciation of the collections. We can all look forward to their upcoming contributions.

Not sure how many of you got to read the April-August 2011 issue of Chicago Gallery News so we are rerunning the column 15 Minutes with a Dealer in this newsletter. It is an interview conducted by CGN's Laura Miller which featured the NIU Art Museum. While no, we aren't dealers, her column provides a great service to artists wishing to learn about galleries in the region as well as for those in the cultural field to get to know their colleagues, and for those who support us to learn more about us. We were pleased to be asked to participate and to share a bit about our history and operations.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall and wish you a delightful rest of summer - try to stay cool!

August 28 - November 17

Reception: September 13th , 4:30-6:00 pm

Fall exhibitions, offered in conjunction with two international conferences on the NIU campus, focus on Southeast Asia.

Music for the Divine (Musical instruments and traditions of Burma from the court to the expression of identities in contemporary multi-ethnic Burmese cultures) Curated by Catherine Raymond, Director, Center for Burma Studies, NIU

Transnational Identity: Performing Arts of Southeast Asia (Performing art forms typical of Burmese, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, and Thai cultures)

Current Views and Actions: Photography and Performance Documentation from Phnom Penh (Khvay Samnang, Lim Sokchanlina)

Karen, A People on the Border (Documentary photographs by Robert Gerhardt)

January 8 - February 23

Reception: January 24th, 4:30-6:00 pm

Vice/Virtue This exhibition suite will focus on the dynamics of the “seven deadly sins” (wrath, greed, sloth, lust, pride, envy and gluttony) and the seven “heavenly virtues” (faith, hope, charity, fortitude, justice, temperance, and prudence), including potential areas of overlap or intersection.

March 19 - May 24**April 4 - May 24 (ART 656 Project)**

Reception: April 4, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Mapping This contemporary exhibition suite will explore the subjective nature of objective recording.

Mapping: Measuring Across Place and Period; Information Navigation and Geography
This exhibition will be curated and prepared by ART 656 Museum Studies Students.

Upcoming Film Series:

Southeast Asian Documentary Film Series:

Scheduled repeat screenings will take place each week in the North Gallery of the Art Museum. (Additional playing of the week's selection that does not overlap with public viewing is welcomed).

10:30 a.m. T W T H F

1:15 p.m. T W T H F S

(CYCLE REPEATS WEEKS SEVEN - TWELVE)

WEEK ONE: August 28 – September 1 / WEEK SEVEN: October 9 – October 13

Hanoi Eclipse, Vietnam, 2010. Directed by Barley Norton. The Music of Dai Lam Linh. 0:56

WEEK TWO: September 4 – September 8 / WEEK EIGHT: October 16 – October 20

Seasons of Migration, Cambodia, 2005, Directed by: John Bishop, Choreography of Sophiline Cheam Shapiro. 0:56

WEEK THREE: September 11 – September 15 / WEEK NINE: October 23 – October 27

Seeing Siem Reap, Cambodia, 2012. Directed by S. Smith Patrick. Angkor dance and photo workshops. 0:26

WEEK FOUR: September 18 – September 22 / WEEK TEN: October 30 – November 3

Blue Collar and Buddha, Laotian Refugees in Rockford, IL. 1986/2007. Directed by Taggart Siegel. 0:57

WEEK FIVE: September 25 – September 29 / WEEK ELEVEN: November 6 – November 10

Between Two Worlds, Hmong Refugees in Dundee, IL. 2007. Directed by Taggart Siegel. 0:30

WEEK SIX: October 2 – October 6 / WEEK TWELVE: November 13 – November 17

Burmese Dreaming, Life on the Burma border, 2010. Directed by Timothy Syrota. 0:50

Related Concert Program Calendar:

Thursday, September 13, 8:00 p.m. Koji Nakano, School of Music Recital Hall

Saturday, September 15, 7:00 p.m. Chinary Ung, Guest Composer Concert, Boutell Memorial Concert Hall. Sponsored in part by a Venture Grant from the NIU Foundation.

Wednesday, September 26, 8:00 p.m. Tatsu Aoki, Tsukasa Taiko of Chicago, with Dohee Lee, Boutell Memorial Concert Hall. Co-sponsored by the Asian American Jazz Festival.

Friday, October 12, 8:00 p.m., Akemi Naito, Kristine Marx, and Satoko Inoue, Ryusuimon Study, School of Music Recital Hall

Members Get Involved!

Calling for Virtuous Acts from our Members:

We are asking our beloved membership for some help with our upcoming exhibitions. We are thinking of including a wide variety of materials, from fine art to pop culture, in our Vice + Virtue exhibition suite. Do you have something in your home that resonates with the themes of "Vice" and/or "Virtue"? Would you consider lending it to us?

They can relate to general notions of the themes, or focus specifically on one of the "Seven Deadly Sins" or "Seven Heavenly Virtues".

The galleries will of course contain mostly visual art, but I'm thinking of filling the hallcases with things like "virtuous" (Gospel) music, "sinful" (Blues, Heavy Metal, etc. etc. etc.) music, embroidered samplers to remind us of virtues to which we should aspire, card games, candy with bible verses printed on the box, even books on the subject. They can be funny; they can be serious. We will need the materials from you sometime in late fall, and return them in March.

If you think you might have something of interest, send an email to Pete at:
polson@niu.edu.

Thank you in advance for your virtuous acts of "Charity"!

Vice & Virtue Poetry Reading:

Also, in conjunction with the Vice & Virtue suite, we would like to reprise our successful Public Poetry Reading of original and favorite poems this time dealing with one or a combination of the vices and virtues. Date: TBA.

Call Heather Green: 815.753.1936 or email at hgreen2@niu.edu, to reserve your spot as a presenter so we can create the program.

Friends of the Art Museum Logo Contest:

We thought it was time to have our members recognized with a logo when we list supporters for our publications, exhibitions, and programs. We asked two of our favorite graphic designers to try their hand at developing a logo that would represent the wide array of NIU Art Museum Members.

Here are the two final designs from which we would like you to choose. This logo will go on our print pieces and can be reproduced on collectible items such as mugs, totes, and tee shirts.

We are coming up with a way to conduct a member's survey online through our website www.niu.edu/artmuseum (this is currently in the works), or you can call us at **815.753.1936** to cast your vote! We'll let you know what the winning design is in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

A.



B.



15 Minutes with a Dealer

There is a lot happening in Chicago's suburbs; one of the most active organizations is the Northern Illinois University Art Museum in DeKalb. CGN's Laura Miller spoke with director Jo Burke about the unique challenges and rewards of working at a University museum, as well as working closely with the community.



Left to Right - Diana Amlzen, Coordinator of Marketing and Education, Peter Olson, Assistant Director, Jo Burke, Director

How does the museum's affiliation with a university impact your programming?

JB: Our mission is to contribute to NIU's curriculum, & also to provide opportunities for art education & cultural enrichment to the community, by balancing contemporary art with traditional media for an examination of visual culture. Our affiliation impacts our philosophy – we provide a space to experiment, discover & learn, and we're open to artists showing works that wouldn't likely be of interest in a commercial setting (site-specific installations, collaborative workshop projects).

Our advisory committees are comprised of faculty & community members. Departments work to pool resources & expertise. On several occasions the various university galleries & the NIU Anthropology Museum have simultaneously hosted exhibitions related to a particular culture / concept.

The museum has been around since the '60s and gone through its share of moves and renovations – undoubtedly creating some obstacles, as well as opportunities. The *Museums without Walls* program, where you placed contemporary art in the community, was a success. Any plans for reinstating it?

JB: *Museum without Walls* started when Altgeld Hall underwent renovation – the timing of our program with the start of DeKalb's participation in the national Main Street Program served as a catalyst for tremendous changes & improvements in our community. Today these are being made through the Renew DeKalb program, on whose committees our staff still serves. I'm now seeing exciting efforts from the town, county, & campus to work together; I'm proud the arts have been a part of that.

We produce up to 16 shows annually

in our renovated galleries, so we've been a bit too busy to work with large-scale public projects. The Museum without Walls spirit lives on through our Community Windows project, in which we highlighted over 25 local non-profit arts/cultural organizations & helped them benefit from design services of NIU's Media Services Department.

Tell us about the museum's collection.

JB: Our permanent collection has approximately 1,500 items: including prints, drawings & photographs. We typically incorporate collection pieces into group exhibitions, i.e., polaroids recently given to us by the Andy Warhol Foundation were shown with 19th century tintypes as well as contemporary portraits by photographers Dawoud Bey & Nora Herting.

One practice that has helped us gain a greater community audience, but is maybe a little unusual for a museum, is using social media to find out about private collections to augment exhibitions. People have some amazing stuff they're very proud of & happy to share.

Your exhibitions often combine the old with the new; tell us about that.

JB: To help our audience feel comfortable with contemporary art, we try to juxtapose a contemporary artist with an old master. Someone interested in Käthe Kollwitz's work is pleased to discover Jay Ryan's work in the next room. Likewise, students who know Jay's work from concert posters become engaged with the graphic work of an older hipster like David Driesbach.

How do you plan & curate exhibitions?

JB: Our staff curates, as do guest curators - artists, historians, collectors. We're happy to view proposals from artists & curators, & we post periodic calls for proposals on our website. We seek a balance of media, local & national/international artists, & we consider how a show will serve our students & community.

How long does it take to put together a typical show, and what's the most challenging part?

JB: Things get tricky when artists send unsolicited proposals. We try to interrelate shows in all four gallery spaces, but it can be a long wait before a show gets approval, fits our budget, our unique spaces, & our theme. We usually plan two years out. Often things just intuitively

come together; the right works surface just when we need them.

How did you get involved with the Museum? What's your favorite part about working there?

JB: I have a studio art background & worked in the audiovisual industry while doing volunteer work at arts organizations. I first worked at the museum as a grad assistant while getting my masters in art history. I was hired as Assistant Director, with notions of staying three years, but things changed at the museum, or in my personal life, that kept it interesting & challenging. Working with creative people is always a bit of both! Being a small museum, our staff serves many functions – I guess that's my favorite part. I'd be bored if I did the same thing every day.

What exciting plans are on the horizon?

We're organizing our first traveling show in years – the last one was with Jin Soo Kim. This new show features etchings & copper plates by printmaker David Driesbach: *Moonlight Cocktails are the Thing*. Our original installation won an Award of Excellence from the Illinois Association of Museums, & the exhibition will be available to travel over the next three years.

In what direction would you like to see the museum head in this new decade?

I'd like for our artists & shows to get more recognition in the art field as well as for more people in the Chicago area to discover the fine work being done here. I'd like to see our collection continue to grow, but for space reasons, we try to limit ourselves to works on paper.

I'm glad to see Governor Quinn increase support for the Illinois Arts Council, but it's difficult to know how much the state can continue to fund. When appropriate, we approach public/private funders and sponsors to help support projects. The arts need to rely on individuals stepping up to support what matters to them; likewise, we need to be certain we're providing a crucial service. The arts are only just beginning to realize they may have to help people see *how* they matter - unfortunate, but true. I hope we've been able to show the university & community that we can be an asset.

Northern Illinois University Art Museum
www.niu.edu/artmuseum

Volunteers - Thank You!

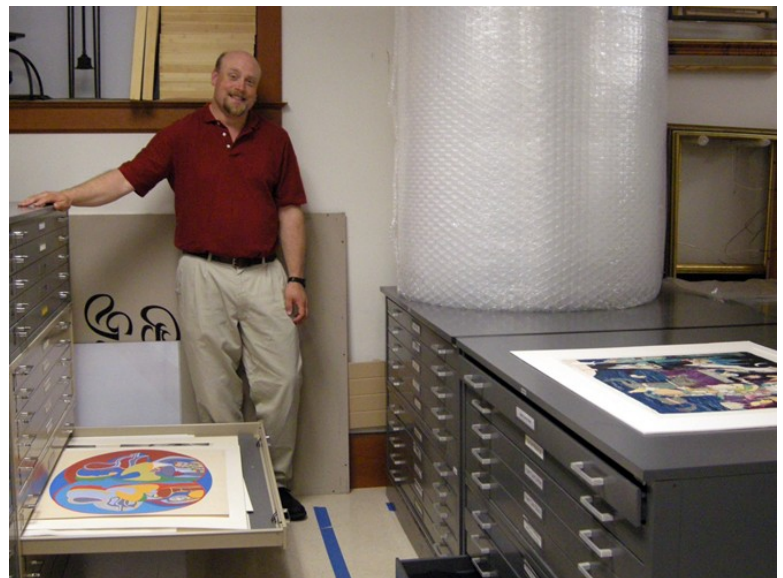
Besides providing a friendly community face in the gallery, the hours of time donated by these individuals helped offset funds, enabling the museum to purchase museology books, a new laptop, mat cutter, a portable PA system, and folding stools. Thank you to our Spring and Summer, 2012 Volunteers!



"Insourcing" with Mike Bennett, our volunteer stool assembly master. Photos by resident handyman, Pete Olson

Another round of appropriate thanks goes out the NIU Geography Department for donating the beautiful flat files pictured here on the right. This generous donation will help us safely house pieces from the permanent collection for years to come. (It's also worth mentioning the beaming smile these flat files put on Pete Olson's face!) Thanks again to Geography for this wonderful gift.

"Collection Nirvana" with Assistant Director Pete Olson. Photo by fellow flat file enthusiast, Heather Green



Gallery Attendants:

Audre Anderson
Yvonne Beckway
John Benson
Kathleen Dust
Heather Hahn
Janelle O'Malley

Office Assistants:

Susan Carter
Heather Hahn

IT Research:

Gary Burchett
Janie Wilson-Cook

Handy People:

Mike Bennett
David & Linda Groat

Museum Studies

Practicum Student:

Philip Krepel

Friday, September 7, Chicago Gallery Season Openings and Roger Brown exhibits.

We'll visit the SAIC Sullivan Galleries to view *Lips of Gossip: Eros and Thanatos* by Roger Brown together before doing our own thing with various shuttle options between the River North and West Loop gallery districts. Bus leaves from the School of Art Parking Lot at 1 p.m.; Return arrival at 10:30 p.m.; Transportation Costs: Members: \$12; Students/Senior (non member): \$16; Others: \$20. Remember: galleries are free; museum entry fees on own. Meal costs on own.

Registration and payment deadline: Wednesday, September 5.

Saturday, October 20, Bridgeport Art Center and Neighborhood Studio Open House.

Opportunity to explore this exciting new arts district in Chicago. Bus leaves from the School of Art Parking Lot at 10:30 a.m.; Return arrival 8:30 p.m.; Transportation Costs: Members: \$12, Students/Seniors (non member): \$16; Others: \$20. Meal and art purchase costs on own.

Registration and payment deadline: Wednesday, October 17.

Saturday, November 3, Cedar Rapids: Alphonse Mucha, Grant Wood and Marvin Cone: Art Nouveau and Regionalism.

Alphonse Mucha: Inspirations of Art Nouveau is the only American venue for this historic exhibition of paintings, jewelry, sculpture and lithographs from the Mucha Foundation in Prague and London. Bus leaves from the School of Art Parking Lot at 7:00 a.m.; Return arrival 9 p.m.; Transportation and Exhibition Tickets at Cedar Rapids Art Museum, and the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library: Members: \$45, Students/Senior (non member): \$50, Others: \$60. Food costs on own. **Registration and payment deadline: Wednesday, October 10.**

Friday, November 16, Chicago Cultural Heritage Museums I. Selection of Heritage Museums in Chicago including the Cambodian American Heritage Museum.

Bus leaves from the School of Art Parking Lot at 8:30 a.m.; Return arrival at 7:30 p.m.; Transportation and Tours: Pricing TBA. Additional Heritage stops TBA. Limited time will be provided to explore neighborhoods and sample the regional cuisine. Food costs on own.

Registration and payment deadline: Wednesday, October 17.

Watch for upcoming info regarding:

Bustrips related to the Vice/Virtue Exhibition Suite: Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF)'s Church Tour featuring five Evanston area churches of architectural interest; and CAF's From Vice to Nice, a neighborhood walking tour that explores the transitions of a neighborhood.

Chicago Cultural Heritage Museums II and III – In conjunction with our Mapping exhibitions, we will further explore a sampling of the rich offerings of Chicago's various ethnic centers.

Milwaukee/Racine GOTBON (Get-On-The-Bus Over Nighter) May 16-19, 2013. Planning is still in progress but there will be Lots of Art, Frank Lloyd Wright, Kringle, Beer and Brats.

Friends:

Anthony & Linda Amettis
 Audre Anderson
 Nancy Anderson
 Bill & Barbara Atkins
 Rivka Baker
 Joyce Barker
 Elizabeth Bass
 Rudolf & Ingeborg Bisanz
 Deborah & Colin Booth
 Penny & Ken Cameron
 Susan Carter & Robert Sabin
 DeKalb Area Women's Center
 Sherry Kay Cotter
 Donetta Domina
 Joanne & Daniel Dillman
 Eileen Dubin
 Sharon Dunham
 Kathleen Dust
 Cynthia A. Fahler
 Betty Fike
 Joelyn Frisch
 Patricia Galvan
 Billie Giese
 Tim Griffin & Susan Drow
 David & Linda Groat
 Karen Hagen
 Lori Hartenhoff
 Jim & Catherine Hovis
 Barbara Hulseberg
 Brenda Humphrey
 Jitka Hurych
 Steven A. Johnson
 Marguerite Key
 Merrill H. King
 Janis & Tom Kirts
 Marilyn Loy
 Patsy Lundberg

Cile Massover
 Sheila McHugh
 Douglas Moore
 Gretchen Moore
 Jan Modloff
 James C. Nerstheimer
 Juliann Olsen
 Carla Ortegel
 Rosemarie A. Ostberg
 Dale Osterle
 David A. Parker
 Sherry Lee Patterson
 Kathleen Pawlak
 Linda T. Peterson
 Brian Reis & Mary LeClair
 Diane Rodgers
 Ulli & John Rooney
 Duane & Anne Rubendall
 Darlene Rubino
 Maureen & Morley Russell
 Bill & Kathy Scarpaci
 Barry & Kay Schrader
 Ivan & Judith Shils
 Peggy Simonds
 Beverly Ann Smith
 Jeanne Smith
 Jerry & Ging Smith
 Lester K. Smith
 Marian Swenson
 Rosemarie Slavenas
 Sharon Tourville
 Sophia Varcados
 Mary Wiegele
 Jerrold & Carol Zar
 Estelle Von Zellen
 Mary Von Zellen
 Norma Zopp

Sponsor Members:

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 Natalie Calhoun
 Virginia Cassidy
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 Ellen Roth Deutsch & Herb Deutsch
 Richard F. Grott
 Charles Larry & Emmylou Sudier
 Jerry & Miriam Meyer
 Nick Noe
 Martin S. Novak
 Marilyn Sjöholm
 Terry Smialek
 Lynne M. Waldeland
 Christine Worley

Patron Members:

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 The National Bank & Trust, Sycamore
 Schwab
 Veolia Transportation

Foundation Members:

David C. & Sarajeon Ruttenberg
 Foundation

Is it time to renew?

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.

9. By becoming a member of the **Friends of NIU Art Museum** you help increase community support for the arts and receive special privileges and benefits. As a **Friend of the NIU Art Museum** you contribute to both the continuance and growth of a valuable cultural resource in northern Illinois. Your membership provides essential support for exhibitions, educational programs, artists' lectures, exhibition-related publications and conservation of the permanent collection.

Benefits & Levels of Membership:

FRIENDS: Individual \$25 / Dual \$45 / Student \$10 / Senior \$15 / Dual Senior \$25
Choice of:

- ⇒ NIU Art Museum Travel Mug
 - ⇒ NIU Art Museum Academic Calendar
 - ⇒ NIU Art Museum Tote*
 - ⇒ NIU Art Museum Tee Shirt*
- *(additional fee of \$5 for Student and Senior members)

- Priority registration and discounted fees on museum activities
- Printed mailing of exhibition announcements
- E-mail announcements/listserve
- Special members-only previews, receptions, bus trips and special events
- 20% discount on NIU Art Museum catalogues
- Subscription to **Museum Notes** newsletter

If you are already a member please share this form with a friend. Thank you.

SPONSOR Membership \$100

All of the Friends privileges **plus**
Choice of **one** of the following prints from the **Friends Collector Print Program:**

- ⇒ Larry Gregory, *Conkles Hollow, Ohio*
- ⇒ Charlotte Rollman, *Hopkins Park, DeKalb*
- ⇒ Philip Smith, *Five Summers Past*
- ⇒ Sidney Chafetz, *Public Servant*
- ⇒ Eugene Larkin, *27 Feathers*
- ⇒ Jack Coughlin, *Small Winter Owl*
- ⇒ Peter Olson, *Hummingbird Nebula*

- Complimentary exhibition catalogues
- Recognition in **Museum Notes**

PATRON Membership \$250

All of the above Friend & Sponsor privileges **with**
Choice of **one** of the following prints from the **Friends Collector Print Program:**

- ⇒ Renie Adams, *Point of View*
- ⇒ Michael Barnes, *Sideshow*
- ⇒ David Driesbach, *Opening Night*

- **Name engraved on Membership Plaque in Museum**

Return This Portion to the NIU Art Museum, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115

YES! I want to Join Renew my Membership of the NIU Art Museum at the level circled:

Individual/\$25 Dual/\$45 (2 people, one mailing address) Student/\$10 Senior/\$15
Dual Senior/\$25 (2 seniors, one mailing address) Sponsor/\$100 Patron/\$250

***Students and Seniors please enclose copy of current I.D.**

I would like to help with an additional donation of \$_____. _____ I do not wish to receive a premium. Please use the entirety of my membership fee (and/or donation) towards programming and collection conservation.

Premium Selection: _____; Sponsor or Patron Print Selection: _____

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____ Enclosed is my check payable to the NIU Art Museum for \$_____

Please charge my : Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

Account number _____ Expiration date _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

I am interested in volunteering: Baking/Receptions Housing artists/scholars overnight
Gallery Attendant/Information Desk Advisory Panels - Area of Interest: Events Fundraiser
Education/Outreach Exhibitions Collections Get-On-The-Bus Trips
Other _____

Museum Staff:

Jo Burke, Director
 Peter Olson, Assistant Director
 Heather Green, Coordinator of Marketing and Education
 Diana Amtzen, Technical Assistant, Extra Help

Graduate Assistants for 2012-2013:

Ryan Burns, MFA candidate, painting
 Tess Michalik, MFA candidate, painting
 Adrienne Miller, MFA candidate, printmaking
 Sarah Rivers, MFA candidate, photography

We are saddened to have Diana decrease her hours although delighted that we will still get to work with her, although mostly from home – and that we have been fortunate to be able to fill her position through a promotion of former graduate assistant, Heather Green.

Join our listserv for the most up to date information and announcements!

E-mail your address to hgreen2@niu.edu. Find us on the web:

www.niu.edu/artmuseum - also on Facebook, Artslant & Twitter!

Museum Committees:

Exhibition Advisory Committee:

Audre Anderson
 Michael Bennett
 Joe Bonomo
 Karen Brown
 Peter Van Ael

Education Advisory Panel:

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

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
 And by appointment for groups tours

