



Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum

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Welcome New Members!

Rivka Baker
 Joyce Barker
 Brenda Humphrey
 Mary Weigele

Renewals

Virginia Cassidy
 John & Nancy Castle
 Patricia Galvan
 Billie Giese
 Larry and Carmeda Gregory
 Tim Griffin & Susan Drow
 Richard Grott
 Sheila McHugh
 Mary Olson
 David Parker
 Harvey & Elizabeth Plotnick
 Helen Shirley
 Marilyn Sjöholm

Thank you for your support!

Director's Notes

The Fall, 2011 semester has ended and our new semester-overlapping exhibition schedule seems to be working well. We were able to provide a quiet respite to those attending the fabulous Altgeld Holiday Open House on December 9. This week we are enjoying having visitors in the galleries who otherwise wouldn't have time to get away from their offices! We look forward to reopening the galleries January 10 after winter break. The Faculty and New Art Examiner shows will then continue through February but *A Personal Haiku* will switch out for *New to the Collection*.

Museum Staff
 (from left to right:
 Jo Burke, Director,
 Peter Olson,
 Assistant Director,
 & Diana Arntzen,
 Coordinator of
 Marketing &
 Education.)

Photo by Bob
 Banke, NIU Media
 Services.



When looking over our upcoming *Get-On-The Bus* Trip offerings you might notice that we try to relate our excursion outings to our own exhibitions. In conjunction with *New to the Collection*, we will be visiting other contemporary art collections, including that of Howard A. Tullman and that of DePaul University. In conjunction with our late spring Graphic Novel Exhibition Suite, we will look at the early roots of sequential imagery, visiting the Newberry Library where we will get to examine some of their exquisite illuminated manuscripts (well prepared after attending a lecture by NIU Art History Professor Ann Van Dyke earlier in the week). While our own exhibits will focus more on the wordless novel, we will have opportunity to also view a calligraphy exhibit and a contemporary group show, *Write Now!* in which artists explore the letter form on this same trip. (A juxtaposition to be appreciated with just a wee bit of irony.)

Diana, Pete, and I just finished team teaching our third round of the Intro to Museum Studies class. We typically ask our students for their feedback on assignments, projects, and class structure. One of the funniest comments we got from a student this year was that maybe we should consider editing our own text book for future classes. HA! Knowing how much time we put into preparing for this class already, I hate to think how much time that would take. At any rate, we never end with tweaking and improving our class – just as we hope to continue to improve the impact of the Art Museum. Thanks for your support in helping us do that.

Happy New Year, everyone!

Upcoming Programs

Re-Examining the New Art Examiner

Symposium: Saturday, January 28, 2012

10:00am-4:45pm, NIU Music Building, Boutell Auditorium



Please join the College of Visual and Performing Arts for a symposium exploring the controversial history and unsettled significance of the most widely-read art magazine ever published in Chicago. Born out of seismic cultural shifts in the early 1970s, coming of age in the hyper-inflated art world of the 1980s, and embracing its role as part of the global re-theorization of art practices in the 1990s, the New Art Examiner was an independent magazine of art and cultural criticism that focused relentlessly on enlarging the debate and raising the stakes for art and artists in the Midwest.

**What difference did the New Art Examiner make to the history of art in Chicago?
What difference does it make to the practice of art in Chicago now that it's gone?**

We will engage these questions in conversation with co-founding editor Derek Guthrie, and with editors and authors from all three decades of the magazine's run —many of whom are featured in The Essential New Art Examiner, an anthology of essays edited by Terri Griffith, Kathryn Born, and Janet Koplos and published November 2011 by Northern Illinois University Press.

This symposium is free and open to the public and is offered in conjunction with the exhibition curated by Art History Professor Barbara Jaffee at the NIU Art Museum entitled: ***The New Art Examiner, "Chicago's Independent Voice of the Visual Arts," 1973-2002*** that runs through March 10, 2012.

School of Art Faculty Exhibition Programs

- Wednesday, January 25, 12:15-1 p.m., Altgeld 315, Artist Slide Talk on process;
Karen Brown: How to Cook your Head
- Tuesday, January 31, 5-6 p.m., Altgeld 315, Artist Slide Talk about recent residency and work produced at the Frans Masereel Centrum in Kasterlee, Belgium;
Michael Barnes: The International Residency Experience: Printing with the Kabouters
- Wednesday, February 1, 12:15-1 p.m., Altgeld 315, Artist Demo;
Cynthia Hellyer Heinz: Drawing: Layering the Meaning of Monster Connections
- Thursday, February 2, 12:15-1 p.m., Altgeld 315, Artist Slide Talk;
Peter Van Ael: A Voyage of No Return
- Tuesday, February 7, 5-6 p.m., Altgeld 315, Artist Slide Talk;
Harry Wirth: Art + Architecture + Design
- Wednesday, February 8, 12:15-1 p.m., Altgeld 315, Artist Slide Talk;
Billie Giese: Process and Story
- Monday, February 13, 5 p.m., Museum Gallery — Informal Artist Talk;
Katie Kahn: et in Arcadio ego
- Thursday, February 16, 12:15 p.m., Museum Gallery — Informal Artist Talk;
Charlotte Rollman: High Notes
 - Closing Reception, Museum, Thursday, February 23, 4:30-6 p.m.

Museum Receives Illinois Arts Council Grant Award

We are pleased to announce the receipt of \$7,500 in general operating support awarded from the Illinois Arts Council for exhibitions and programs in FY 2012.



Peter Olson and Jo Burke accepting the Award of Excellence from David Baker, President of the Illinois Association of Museums.

Illinois Association of Museum Award for *Music to My Eyes*:

We were delighted to accept an **Award of Excellence** on behalf of the **NIU Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate Program in Museum Studies** for the Spring 2011 *Exhibition Music to My Eyes*.

The award committee noted that the exhibition was visually appealing even though challenges were faced during installation. Also important to the Awards Committee were the Educational Workshops held in conjunction with the exhibition.

We are pleased that this program and the exhibitions produced with the students continue to regularly receive awards.

Preview: *New to the Collection* North Gallery Jan. 10 – February 25, 2012

This upcoming exhibition comprises several pieces that have recently come to us through various channels. All were gifts or donations as we do not have a separate budget for purchasing artwork. Sources can vary from community members or retired faculty and alumni to national foundations. Visiting artists sometimes produce and edition a print at NIU, with one copy going into the collection. One such example you will see in the exhibition is a print by Mark Hosford, a rising star in the art world and currently assistant professor of printmaking at Vanderbilt University.

Occasionally an artist like Ayomi Yoshida expresses their gratitude for exhibiting here by donating something to the collection. Some of you will recall her 2008 installation *Yedoensis*, when the rotunda gallery sparkled with tens of thousands of iridescent cherry blossoms. As a token of her appreciation, the Ayomi presented us with a large color woodcut. This print, a beautiful interpretation of the visual patterns of light across the surface of water, will be on display in DeKalb for the first time in this upcoming show. As a bonus, we also have a print by her mother, an esteemed artist as well. Why do we also have this print? The answer to that question, as well as the chance to see other fascinating images, awaits you in the gallery on January 10, 2012.

In addition to the aforementioned objects, there will be sculpture by Tom Skomski and Ben Mahmoud, photographs by Scott Mutter, Cal Kowal, Lewis Kostiner and Andy Warhol, prints by Jane Hammond, Jessica Gondek and Tunde Odunlade and selections from a folio of prints and "pomes" by David Driesbach and NIU English professor William Johnson.

Recent *Get-On-The-Bus!* Adventures



Recent Bus Trippers Having a Great Time:

Left - Right, Top-Bottom:

- **Barb Hulseberg** and **Jan Modloff** touring the calliope and wagon collection at Circus World, Baraboo, WI.
- **Diane Rodgers** discussing the future with Dr. Evermor, creator of the *Forevertron*,
- The *Forevertron* is waiting!
- Matthew Malaker at the Milwaukee Art Museum
- Experiencing Mark di Suvero's *Yes! For Lady Day*
- **Marilyn Loy** and **Richard Cooler** at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park
- Milwaukee Public Museum

Photos by: Jo Burke, Brenda Humphrey, Jan Modloff, Peter Olson



Saturday, February 18: Contemporary Collections
Howard A. Tullman Personal Collection at
Tribeca Flashpoint Academy and **DePaul University**
Art Museum for: *Re: Chicago & Highlights from the*
Permanent Collection.

Bus leaves from the School of Art Parking Lot at 9:00 a.m.
and returns at 6:30. **Transportation Costs:** Members: \$18
Students/Seniors: \$22 All Others: \$25. **Registration and**
payment deadline, Thursday, February 3.

Saturday, March 3: North Shore Excursion
Prints and the Pursuit of Knowledge in Early Modern
Europe, Mary and Leigh **Block Museum** at
Northwestern University, and the **Illinois Holocaust**
Museum in Skokie.

Bus leaves from the School of Art Parking Lot at 8:30 a.m.
and returns at 5:30. Transportation Costs: Members: \$15
Students/Seniors: \$18 All Others: \$20. Holocaust Museum
Admission: \$12 Adult, \$8 Senior (65+) & Student (12-22).
Registration and payment deadline, Friday, February 24.

Saturday, April, 14: Image and Text in History
Tour of the **Newberry Library**, *Chicago Calligraphy*
Collective Annual Juried Exhibition and *Write Now:*
Artists and Letterforms, **Chicago Cultural Center**.
Bus leaves from the School of Art Parking Lot at 9:00 a.m.
and returns at 6:00. Transportation and Tour Costs:
Members: \$20 Students/Seniors: \$25 All Others: \$28.
Registration and payment deadline Friday, April 6.

- Associate Professor of Art History, **Ann van Dijk**
will present a **lecture on Illuminated Manuscripts**
in conjunction with this bus trip and our history of
the Graphic Novel exhibitions on **Tuesday, April**
10, 2012, 5:00 p.m., Altgeld Hall, room 315.
Free and open to the public.



Gertrude Abercrombie, *Split Personality*, 1954,
Oil on Pressed Board,
DePaul University Art Museum



Prints and the Pursuit of Knowledge in Early
Modern Europe. Mary and Leigh Block
Museum, Northwestern.



Write Now: Artists and Letterforms, Chicago
Cultural Center.

Members & Volunteers

Sponsor Members

Diana & Steve Arntzen
 Gary Burchett
 Phillip & Gayalla Burchett
 Natalie Calhoun
 Virginia Cassidy
 John & Nancy Castle
 Richard F. Grott
 Jim & Catherine Hovis
 Charles Larry
 & Emmylou Studier
 Dimitri Aristomeni Liakos
 Jerry & Miriam Meyer
 Bill & Jo Monat
 Nick Noe
 Charlotte Rollman
 Marilyn Sjolholm
 Terry Smialek
 Ging & Gerry Smith
 Lynne M. Waldeland
 Susan Walker
 Christine Worley

Patron Members

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 Jo Burke
 Richard & Thecla Cooler
 Lisa Freeman
 Jerry & Annette Johns
 Anne C. Kaplan
 Richard & Kathleen Katz
 Mike & Melinda Keck
 Mary Olson
 John & Barbara Peters
 Beth & Harvey Plotnik
 Darsha Primich
 & Robert Fleisher
 Catherine Raymond
 & Alan Potkin
 Diane Ragains Slawin
 Helen Shirley

Corporate Sponsors

ICON Fine Art Services
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Foundation Members

David C & Sarajeon
 Ruttenberg Foundation



A private reception was hosted by **Helen Merritt's** daughter, **Deborah Aldrich**, to thank the local book club members who acted as Helen's daughters in absentia. Poetry and heartfelt memories were shared.

Select pieces of Helen's ceramic work were auctioned through the run of the show with proceeds benefitting the **Helen Merritt Art Scholarship Fund** at NIU.

Thank you to our Fall, 2011 Volunteer Museum Gallery Attendants:

* **Audre Anderson** * **Yvonne Beckway** * **John Benson**
 * **Heather Hahn** * **Janelle O'Malley** * **Jan Modloff**

Please let us know if you'd like to join them and volunteer in the gallery this spring. Nudge, nudge...

Volunteers needed: The 2012 **Northern Regional History Fair** is seeking volunteer judges. Judges are needed to evaluate middle school papers & projects at the History Fair, and new this year - websites! Call Anne M. Petty Johnson at 815-753-5200 or visit their website for details: www.niu.edu/clasep/fairs/history/index.shtml

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 membership is scheduled to expire.

Thank you.

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 _____ | |

Thank you for your support of the NIU Art Museum.
Your membership materials will arrive in the mail.

Local Museums and Galleries

DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association:

Opening January 8: *DEKALB Ag: 100 Years of Agricultural Innovation, Sprouts: An Introduction to Agriculture, What Does DeKalb County Grow and Agricultural Innovations of Northern Illinois*. 815-756-8737.

Kishwaukee College Art Gallery:

Student Exhibition through Feb. 2nd; Closing Reception on Wed., Feb. 1, 1-3 pm. February 6 - March 9, *Solo exhibition of paintings and illustrations by Chaveevah Ferguson*. 815-825-2086 ext. 5610.

DeKalb Area Women's Center Gallery:

Artists/Teachers: An exhibit of artwork by recent graduates from Illinois State University's Art Teacher Education program, through January 28th. Closing Reception January 28, 1 - 3. 815-758-1351.

Join our listserve for the most up to date information and announcements! E-mail your address to darntzen@niu.edu.

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

We're on the Web:
www.niu.edu/artmuseum
Facebook & ArtSlant

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 Arts Fund 21.

NIU Art Museum
Altefeld 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

