



# Museum Notes

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**Insert: Get-On-The-Bus Overnighter**

### **Welcome New Members!**

Rudolf & Ingeborg Bisanz  
Natalie Brulc  
Marilyn Loy  
Sharon Nelson  
Barry & Kay Schrader  
Christine Woywod  
Jerrold and Carol Zar

### **Renewals:**

Michael Barnes & Kryssi Staikidis  
Elizabeth Bass  
John & Mary-Glynn Boies  
Natalie Calhoun  
Susan Carter & Robert Sabin  
Virginia Cassidy  
Kathy Dimonte  
Tim Griffin & Susan Drow  
Patricia Galvan  
David McMahon  
Elizabeth Mehren  
Douglas J. Moore  
Elaine Parnell  
Patricia Perkins  
John & Barbara Peters  
Beth & Harvey Plotnick  
Brian Reis & Mary La Clair  
Maureen & Morley Russell  
Carol Schmidt  
Diane Ragains Slawin  
Jerry & Ging Smith  
Emmylou Studier & Charles Larry  
Marian Swenson  
Joan Truckenbrod & Clyde Kimbal

*Thank you all for your support!*

### **Director's Notes**

On behalf of the staff of the NIU Art Museum, I'd like to wish everyone the most happy of holidays. We are looking forward to a short break before our spring semester starts and with it a new group of exhibitions on display.

Our January 19 – March 5 exhibitions share a popular culture theme and will feature a display of heroic comic books from the Rare Books and Special Collections of the University Libraries. (RBSC). I hope to see our museum members at a special wine and cheese reception with the Friends of the NIU Libraries here at the Museum on Sunday, January 24, 4-6 p.m. when RBSC Curator Lynne Thomas will give a talk about the comics exhibition she has compiled.

Mike Houston and Martin Mazorra of Cannonball Press will be Visiting Artists at the School of Art in January working with NIU students in the print shop to prepare a component of their exhibition. I'm told that there could be some sort of performative element at the reception on Thursday, January 21 so you won't want to miss that! Guest curator, Monte Beauchamp, has selected a wonderful grouping of work by several Midwestern artists represented in his international anthology of illustration, comic, and graphic artwork. *Midwestern Blab 2* will feature the work of Don Colley, Tom Huck, C.J. Pyle, Teresa James, and Fred Stonehouse.

In conjunction with the Pop Culture exhibitions, museum members **Audre Anderson** and **Terri Smialek** have worked with staff to plan our first Get-On-The-Bus-Over-Nighter – a March 19 -21 trip to Saint Louis with stops along old Route 66. Details and a registration form for this trip are enclosed and links to the sites may be found on our website.

In preparing for our late spring exhibitions on the artwork of the New Deal Era, I would like to ask members of the NIU Art Museum and community who have collections of Depression glass or ceramics and would like to show them in our hall cases to please contact me to make loan arrangements.

*Thank you and  
Happy New Year.*

## Awards & Grants

### Museum Projects Recognized

Two of our 2008-2009 exhibitions, *Moonlight Cocktails Are the Thing*, curated by NIU graduate students in **Peter Van Ael's** Museum Studies Exhibition and Interpretation class and *Belief Made Tangible*, curated by **Catherine Raymond**, Director, Center for Burma Studies, NIU, received recognition at the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM) annual conference this fall in Bloomington.

The IAM panel noted in particular the high caliber of exhibit design and called the display of 12 copper plates in *Moonlight Cocktails are the Thing* "an attention grabber". Of *Belief Made Tangible*, the committee commended the wonderful use of space design and staging and stated that it was "clearly a beautiful exhibit of a unique collection."



Museum Studies Coordinator Peter Van Ael receiving certificate of award from IAM President Dave Oberg.



DPL head librarian Dee Coover, NIU Art Museum Director Jo Burke, and DCCF Board Member Joan Fenstermaker in front of the Dahlstrom mural.

### Grants Awarded to NIU Art Museum

We are very pleased to announce that the museum has been awarded \$7,230 from the **Illinois Arts Council**, a state agency, in support of our exhibitions and programs in 2009-2010.

In addition, we have received a \$1,000 award from the **3M Foundation** in support of the exhibitions and programs related to our spring **Art of the New Deal Era** exhibition suite and an **Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholar Speaker Award** in support of Bucky Halker's performance and talk on *Woody Guthrie, the Great Depression & American Protest Songs* at the upcoming April 8 reception. Halker's free, public presentation will be made possible in part by an award from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.

We also have been awarded a \$922 Community Needs Grant from the **DeKalb County Community Foundation** in support of documentation of the WPA mural at the DeKalb Public Library and its recent restoration.

Librarian Dee Coover will work with graphic artist Sophia Varcados of NIU Media Services to create two posters – one on the artist Gustaf Dahlstrom and one on the mural's restoration by the Chicago Conservation Center – for display at the museum during the New Deal Era exhibitions and then made available for temporary loan to schools throughout the county along with an optional power point presentation on the WPA mural program.

## Recent Events and Happenings

Thanks to College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) Associate Dean **Deborah Robertson**, the museum was able to hook up with the amazingly creative Paula Frasz, Professor of Dance, who worked with ten of her students on original choreography inspired by the artwork on display in the fall Technology and Art suite. These students performed six times on three dates in order to accommodate our tight spaces. The performances were wonderful and brought new life to the gallery highlighting aspects of the artwork and architectural space that many of us had missed before experiencing the dance interpretation. We look forward to other such collaboration in the future!



Paula Frasz's students perform "Funnel Series" among Jessica Gondek's artwork as part of TECHNODANCE.



Elona Van Gent examines the 3-D modeling plans of students in the Art and Engineering workshop.

Thanks to the collaborative spirit of Deans **Rich Holly** (CVPA) and Promod Vohra, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, and the dedication of NIU Faculty members Meung Kim (Mechanical Engineering) and **Kurt Schultz** (Art, Design / Time Arts) students in Engineering and Art had opportunity to cooperatively explore various three dimensional modeling software and try their hand at creating a rapid prototyped plaster object while working with visiting artist Elona Van Gent (UMich, Ann Arbor). This workshop was supported in part by funds from the School of Art Visiting Artist and Scholar Program.



Kurt Schultz and Meung Kim compare 3D modeling software programs during the rapid prototyping workshop.

The NIU School of Art Faculty Biennial Artist Talks featured presentations by seven of the exhibiting faculty. The talks were extremely well attended and enjoyed by students and community members alike.



Monday, November 9, Andrew Liccardo, Design, Photography presented: "At a Crossroads on the Prairie"



Wednesday, November 4, Karen Brown, Fine Arts Studio, Drawing presented: "...of or Pertaining to Dirt"



Monday, November 2, Michael Barnes, Fine Arts Studio, Printmaking presented: "A Look into My Head"

## Recent Gifts to the Collection

We are very pleased to announce several new gifts to the Permanent Collection. Museum member **Margaret Washburne Plagge** has donated three ink drawings by Michael Ayodele and one woodblock print by Tunde Odunlade obtained from the artists themselves when Mrs. Plagge and her husband James were living in Nigeria in the early 1980s.



**Tunde Odunlade, Music & Acrobat (The Pleasure of Music) woodcut, 16 7/8" x 12 1/4", 1981**

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Haas of Glencoe have donated a large mixed media print, Full House, by contemporary artist Jane Hammond and artist Jessica Gondek has donated a woodblock print from her Unidentified Object series.

We are pleased to also note that NIU alumnus Thomas Skomski's mixed media work, Unknown with Priapus, Accession # 2005.1(a,b,c,&d) is on temporary loan for an upcoming exhibition at Bently Gallery, Scottsdale Arizona.

### Is it time to renew?

We do not send out an invoice when your yearly membership expires, so 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.**

### Are you being served?

The NIU Art Museum has set up a Listserve to send out announcements and bus trip updates to our members. If you would like to participate, please e-mail Diana at [darntzen@niu.edu](mailto:darntzen@niu.edu) so she can add you to our list.

We're on the Web:

[www.niu.edu/artmuseum](http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum)

Facebook , ArtSlant & flickr

[www.niuartmuseum.blogspot.com](http://www.niuartmuseum.blogspot.com)

## Patrons & Sponsors

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Sally Stevens  
Joan Truckenbrod & Clyde Kimball  
Lynn M. Waldeland  
Susan Walker  
Joe & Betty Wood  
Christine Worley



## Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday January 19, 5:00 p.m.** Lecture by Mike Houston & Martin Mazorra, Cannonball Press - VAB/JAH room 111.
- **Thursday January 21, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.** Opening Reception for Pop Culture Suite.
- **Sunday January 24, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Wine & Cheese for NIU Art Museum Members & Friends of the University Libraries, curator Lynne Thomas presentation.
- **Friday, January 29**, Discount Registration Deadline for **STL66GOT-BON**
- **Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.** Opening Reception for New Deal Era exhibitions. **Bucky Halker: *Woody Guthrie, The Great Depression and American Protest Songs*** - 6:00 p.m. Altgeld Hall, room 315.
- **Tuesday April 13, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**, New Deal Programs Panel chaired by NIU Assistant Professor of History Stanley Arnold. Altgeld Hall, room 315.
- **Wednesday April 14, 7:15 - 8:15**, "Documenting the Depression: The Farm Security Administration as the Nation's Lens", NIU Distinguished Research Professor of History, David E. Kyvig, Altgeld, 315.

## NIU Art Museum Staff:

**Museum Director:** Jo Burke  
**Assistant Director:** Pete Olson  
**Coordinator of Marketing/Education:** Diana Arntzen  
**Graduate Assistants:** Heather Hines, Bradley Cahill, Erin Coleman-Cruz

### Exhibition Advisory

#### Committee:

Audre Anderson  
Michael Bennett  
Joe Bonomo  
Karen Brown  
Peter Van Ael

### Education Advisory Panel:

Debra Booth  
Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz  
Shei-Chau Wang  
Christine Woywod

NIU Art Museum  
Altgeld 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 group tours

