



# Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum

Become a  
Friend of the  
NIU Art Museum!

**New Members**

Macus Alonso  
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Molly Burke  
Donna Gable and Ken  
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Maria Ocasio and Ev Soltys  
Bryan Perry

**Renewals**

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David and Linda Groat  
Daniel Grych  
James Hovis and Cathy  
Nefstead  
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Teresa Iversen  
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Donna M. Leonard  
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Skowronski  
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David Parker

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Maureen and Morley Russell  
Bill and Kathy Scarpaci  
Linda Schwarz  
Ivan and Judith Shils  
Rosemarie Slavenas  
Jerry and Ging Smith  
Sally Stevens  
Marian Swenson  
Ruth Anne Tobias  
Sophia Varcados and Jen  
Conley  
Patricia S. Vary  
Jerrold and Carol Zar



Top photos: Friends, campus and community members gather in the museum galleries during the opening reception of "Stories From My Childhood" on Dec. 1, 2022.  
Bottom photo: Juror Ben Stone presents the Best in Show Award to Maryam Safajoo's "Forced Abandonment" and "Difficulty of The Journey."

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Subscribe to the museum's email announcements to stay informed between newsletters.

To sign-up, visit [niu.edu/artmuseum/about/contact-us.shtml](http://niu.edu/artmuseum/about/contact-us.shtml)

Confirm your subscription by clicking the link in the confirmation email.

## 2. Exhibitions

### Spring 2023 Exhibitions: Perspectives on Collecting

March 30—May 13, 2023

Opening Reception March 29, 5 to 7 p.m.

#### Local Visions II

South Gallery



Photos from the collections of: Christo Watson, Michael Barnes and Doug Jeppesen.

Local Visions II is a sequel to the first Local Visions exhibition at the NIU Art Museum held in 2015. The premise? Highlighting the personal collections of objects that can be found in the homes of local residents. Many of these collectors started at a young age, making significant sacrifices to fuel their growing passion, including making down payments, paying in installments or trading either their own artwork or labor for artwork that would enrich their living environment.

#### Featured Collectors:

Michael Barnes, St. Charles, IL  
Ann Busse, Sycamore, IL  
Aleksandra "Ola" Giza, DeKalb, IL  
Doug Jeppesen, Sugar Grove, IL  
Michael Noland, Woodstock, IL  
Ari Norris, Rockford, IL  
Rich Rice, DeKalb, IL  
Christo Watson, Aurora, IL

#### Upcoming Exhibits

This fall, we will present two explorations of what seems needed—*Dialogue*: a small group show curated by Jo Burke, and *Mourning*: a slightly bigger group show curated by Millicent Kennedy and Michael Chambers. These shows will run from Aug. 29—Oct. 14, 2023.

Our winter 23-24 exhibition suite will be a collaboration with the Center for Burma Studies on food issues and concerns which was postponed from 2023. *What is for Supper? What is a Meal?* and *Food for the Soul: Belief and Healing in Burma/Myanmar in the Age of COVID* will open on Nov. 14, 2023 through Dec. 16, 2023 and Jan. 16 through Feb. 17, 2024. We will be closed during university holiday. The Pick Museum of Anthropology will also be doing a show on food and sustainability that will run the entire academic year from September 2023 to May 2024. The DeKalb County History Center in Sycamore will be exploring food as a topic as well.

#### Americans in Burma: The Art of Collecting

North and Rotunda Galleries



Photograph by Chloe Insley and Maeve Wallace; objects from the NIU Burma Art Collection.

Through a great diversity of objects donated by Americans to the Burma Art Collection, this exhibition examines the critical importance of preserving the past for understanding the present and for transmitting to future generations. The objects illuminate the life of 20<sup>th</sup> century Americans in Burma as they moved abroad at the request of a new Burmese government after independence from the British in 1948 and lived there with roles as advisors, educators, scholars, diplomats, missionaries or travelers.

From a sacred altar of Buddha images and manuscripts to musical instruments, textiles, silver, bronze, ivory, and lacquerware, the artworks on view tell individual American stories and their love for Burmese arts and crafts. The exhibition asks how these objects may reveal a "true" local tradition or respond by adapting to the western taste and growing souvenir market.

## Museum Staff

Jo Burke, *Director*  
 Peter Olson, *Assistant Director*  
 Shelby Holtz, *Program Assistant*

## Extra Help Preparator

Millicent Kennedy

## Museum Assistants

Yesenia Arroyo  
 Rory Bis-Markel  
 Danielle Lee  
 Ryan Sarau-Young  
 Abbey Skelton


## Museum Interns

John Hosta (Fall '22)  
 April Startzel (Spring '23)

## Exhibition Advisory Committee

Michael Bennett  
 Mary-Glynn Boies  
 Jessica Cima  
 Aleksandra Giza  
 Nina Rizzo  
 Richard Siegesmund  
 Peter Van Ael  
 Johnson Kwame Wor

Visit [niu.edu/artmuseum](http://niu.edu/artmuseum)  
 Phone: 815-753-1936  
 Email: [artmuseum@niu.edu](mailto:artmuseum@niu.edu)  
 E-news: [go.niu.edu/artmuseum-enews](http://go.niu.edu/artmuseum-enews)

 Like us on Facebook

 Follow us on Twitter  
 @NIUArtmuseum

Parking is available in the [Visitor Pay Lot](#) located at 200 Carroll Ave. Limited metered and accessible parking spaces are available in front of Lowden Hall with accessible aisles and route to Altgeld Hall. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weeknights in nearby Lots 3 and 14.

To request disability-related accommodations for museum programs, please contact the museum at least one week in advance. Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

## Museum News

Best in Show and four Jurors' Choice Awards were announced during the opening reception of "Stories From My Childhood." The \$1,000 Best in Show was awarded to Maryam Safajoo's "Forced Abandonment" and "Difficulty of The Journey." Four Jurors' Choice Awards of \$250 were presented to Natalie Christensen's "Deep Blue Pool," Kaila Larson's "What Will The Neighbors Say?" Lori Markman's "I've Got My Eye on You," and Griselda Rosas' "Regalia 2." Prize money for the winners and juror fees was provided by an anonymous donor.

The Art Museum's new selection of prints from the Brandywine Workshop and Archives are now on temporary display in the Reynolds Whitney Gallery located in the Music Building.

With the intention of reflecting the changing demographic of the university and the region these prints are some of what were purchased to help diversify the artists represented in the collections at the NIU Art Museum. This includes prints made by Black, Latinx, Asian and Indigenous artists. A first round of prints and archival mat board and frames were purchased with funds from the NIU Art and Culture Fee.

A second round of prints will be purchased with funds earned from our Auction for Diversity held in the spring of 2022 when the Museum sold artworks contributed for this purpose by museum members, museum staff, and faculty and staff from the NIU School of Art and Design. In both cases, Brandywine has partnered with NIU to provide these prints at a sizeable discount.

## COVID-19 Visitor Updates

Please check [niu.edu/protecting-the-pack](http://niu.edu/protecting-the-pack) for the latest protocols and guidelines.



## Call us today to reserve your seat!

We are planning to have two excursions this spring. Because of the stated popularity of our bus trips, we have been moving a portion of donated funds from memberships to offset the increased cost of outside bus vendors. Booking time is longer and cancellation time is reduced. Moving forward, we will only be able to refund 100% of ticket/bus fare if you cancel one month ahead, and 50% if you cancel two weeks ahead of the scheduled trip.

## Upcoming Bus Trips:

**Art Expo**—Chicago, Navy Pier  
 Friday, April 14  
 Bus loads at 9:15 a.m.  
**Departure at 9:30 a.m.** on Locust St. (near campus parking garage)  
**Return arrival at 6 p.m.**  
 \$50 NIU Art Museum Members (includes transportation and Expo entry ticket)  
 \$60 non-members  
*Students should register in the School of Art office VAB 216*  
**Registration deadline: Friday, March 31**

**Rockford Art Museum**  
 Behind-the-scenes Coffee with the Curator  
 Friday, May 25  
 Hop-in-the-Vans  
**Departure at 8:45 a.m.** on Locust St. (near campus parking garage)  
**Return arrival at 3:45 p.m.**  
 \$30 NIU Art Museum Members Only Trip. Group lunch (on own) at The Norwegian.  
**Registration deadline: Friday, May 19**

## Staff Announcements

We are pleased to announce we had two interns working with us this year—John Hosta (M.A. Candidate, Art History) was our fall 2022 intern, and April Startzel (M.F.A. Candidate) is our spring 2023 intern. John assisted Peter Olson with the framing of the Brandywine Print collection, and researched the artists for their labels. He also assisted with condition reports on temporary shows. April will be learning the PastPerfect collections database software and is assisting with hanging both the Brandywine prints and artwork around campus from our Art to Lend program.

## CVPA Arts Newsletter

[niuarts.com/newsletter-opt-in/](http://niuarts.com/newsletter-opt-in/)

## Arts Blog

[niuarts.com/](http://niuarts.com/)



Remember to **tip** your driver! Standard tipping rate is \$2 per person.

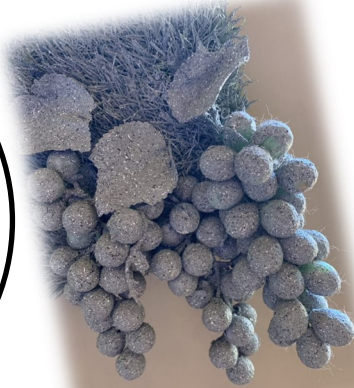
# 4. Calendar

Wednesday, March 29

## Opening Reception

Informal gallery talks with curators Peter Olson, Michael Bennett and "Americans in Burma" curator Catherine Raymond.

**6 p.m., NIU Art Museum Galleries**



From the collection of Ari Norris.

Thursday, April 20

## Objects Worth Keeping

Poetry/Short story Night

Join us for a public poetry reading about collecting—gathering and organizing objects that tell a story. Come to listen and/or share a poem or short story written by you or a favorite author.

**7-8:30 pm, Altgeld Hall 125**

Registration required to read or recite: Call 815-753-1936 or email [artmuseum@niu.edu](mailto:artmuseum@niu.edu).

Friday, April 14

## Burma Studies Symposium: Americans in Burma: Collecting and Collectors

Open to the public.

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Founder's Memorial Library, Room 71-N**



From the collection of Aleksandra "Ola" Giza.

Saturday, April 29

## Meet the Collectors!

Collector Talks with four of the featured collectors in "Local Visions II." Lineup to be announced.

**2 p.m., NIU Art Museum South Gallery**

Saturday, April 15

## Meet the Collectors!

Collector Talks with four of the featured collectors in "Local Visions II." Lineup to be announced.

**2 p.m., NIU Art Museum South Gallery**



## Herb & Dorothy Film Screening

A seemingly ordinary couple, Herb and Dorothy Vogel redefined what it means to be an art collector.

**Time, location, and date TBD**

Public programs are subject to change, addition and cancellation. Visit online for latest programming details and to register for virtual events, [niu.edu/artmuseum/events](http://niu.edu/artmuseum/events).

## Thank You!

Thanks to those who made our Fall and Winter exhibitions and programs not only possible but a resounding success!

**Funding Partners:** Anonymous, Barbara Cole Peters, Friends of the DeKalb Public Library, Friends of the Sycamore Public Library, Friends of the University Libraries, the NIU Center for Black Studies, the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Jerry L. Johns Literacy Clinic, College of Education, College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the NIU Arts and Culture Fee.

**Lenders** of books and furniture (of various size): Rare Books and Special Collections, FML Children's Book Collection, **Deb and Colin Booth, Jo Burke, Molly Burke, Gary Burchett, Carme** and **Larry Gregory**, Office of Legal Counsel, **Elizabeth Mehren, Peter Olson, Dan** and **Virginia Seymour** and **Sophia Varcados**.

**Creative and Technical Support** from book binding to graphic design, photography to shelf fabrication: **Robert Banke, Michael Bennett**, Andy Dolan, Ola Giza, Millicent Kennedy, NIU Media Services, Banners Up, PS Print.com, Supplied Solutions and **Sophia Varcados**.

**Program Participants and Support:** Stan Arnold, Todd Buck, Cliff and Marilyn Cleland, Nora Jiminez, **Annette Johns**, Leonard S. Marcus, Beth McGowan, Amy Newman, Carmen Oliver of the bookin biz, Debbie Lillik and Julia Teel of NCCIL, Janelle O'Malley, Dee Anna Phares, James E. Ransome, Lesa Cline-Ransome, Ben Stone, Shei-Chau Wang and Kyle White.

**Thanks as well to staff and crew!** Yesenia Arroyo, Rory Bis-Markel, Shelby Holtz, John Hosta, Danielle Lee, **Peter Olson**, Ryan Sarau-Young, Abbey Skelton and April Startzel.



Everyday People: The Art of James E. Ransome



Stories From My Childhood



Golden Legacy: Original Art from 80 Years of Golden Books



A Show of Hands: Recent Work by Ben Stone



Burnishing the Medals of Children's Literature



Ronald Gonzalez: As a Child I Sailed the World

## 6. Sustaining Members

### Sustaining Members

#### Sponsors

Renie Adams  
Fred Barnhart  
Rudolf and Ingeborg Bisanz  
Molly Burke  
Peggy Burke  
Susan Carter and Robert Sabin  
Donna Gable and Ken Rodd  
Stephen and Deborah Haliczner  
Barbara Hulseberg  
Steven A. Johnson  
Ronald G. Klein  
Sandra and Howard Little  
Jerry and Miriam Meyer  
Gretchen Moore  
Diane and James Moss  
Nicholas Noe  
Peter Olson  
Patricia Perkins  
Diane Rodgers  
Morley and Maureen Russell  
Linda Schwarz  
Dan and Virginia Seymour  
Terri Smialek  
Marian Swenson  
Ruth Anne Tobias  
Patricia S. Vary  
Lynne Waldeland  
Christine Worley and Peter Hood

#### Patrons

Michael Barnes and Kryssi Staikidis  
Michael and Elaine Bennett  
Derryl Block  
Mary-Glynn and John Boies  
Deborah and Colin Booth  
Richard and Thecla Cooler  
Patricia and Stephen Faivre  
Robert Fleisher and Darsha Primich  
Norden Gilbert and Ben Thomas  
Richard F. Grott  
Thom and Carol Ann Kapheim  
Carol Luc  
Bryan Perry  
Brian Reis and Mary LaClair  
Sally Stevens  
Christo R. Watson

#### Benefactors

Gerald and Cheryl Brauer  
Jo Burke  
Lee S. Holt  
Jerry and Annette Johns  
Anne C. Kaplan  
Paul and Katherine Kassel  
Kathleen and Richard Katz  
Mary Lincoln  
Elizabeth Plotnick  
Catherine Raymond and Alan Potkin

The support the museum receives through your financial gifts and your enthusiasm for the museum allows us to produce award-winning exhibitions and programs for the university, DeKalb and beyond.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

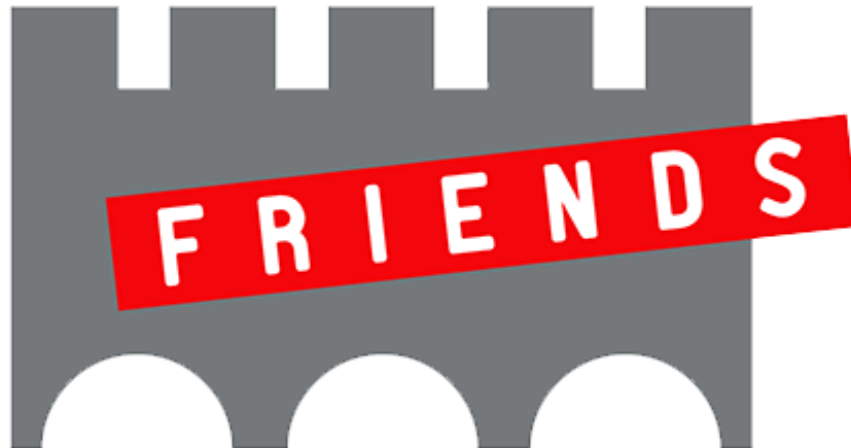
#### Membership Renewals

Membership renewal notices are not mailed. Please check if your membership card is expiring soon and renew *today!*

#### Change of Address

Notify the Museum if you have moved to ensure that you continue to receive issues of the Museum Notes newsletter.

**NIU ART MUSEUM**



For those wishing to make certain of our future, please consider donating to the Friends of the NIU Art Museum Endowment Fund care of the DeKalb County Community Foundation [dekalbccf.org](http://dekalbccf.org).



# JOIN

All gifts sustain and grow opportunities for enrichment and engagement that are free and open to all. Take satisfaction knowing your vital commitment supports our exhibitions, programs and the preservation of our permanent collection.

## Membership Levels

**Benefactor \$500**

**Patron \$250**

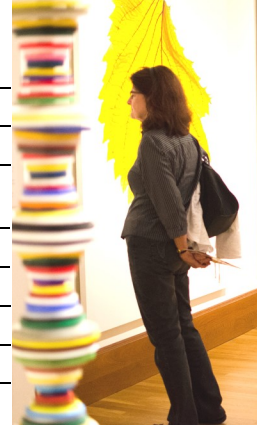
**Sponsor \$100**

## Friend

Individual \$25 Dual \$45  
 Senior \$15 Dual \$25  
 Student \$10

## Benefits

	Benefactor	Patron	Sponsor	Friend
Choice of one "Friend" premium.	■	■	■	■
Priority registration and discounted activity fees.	■	■	■	■
Printed mailing of exhibition announcements.	■	■	■	■
Special members-only previews, receptions, bus trips and special events.	■	■	■	■
20% discount on NIU Art Museum catalogues.	free	free	free	■
Subscription to "Museum Notes" newsletter.	■	■	■	■
Recognition in "Museum Notes."	■	■	■	■
Name engraved on membership plaque.	■	■		
Private personal tour (options available).	■			



## Premiums

**Friend** Choice of: Travel mug, ceramic mug or T-shirt\*. (\*Additional \$5 for student/senior levels.)

### Benefactor

Choice of **one** Benefactor Collector Print

Susanne Doremus, "Sea Fall"  
 Jay Ryan, "The Squadron on Patrol"

### Patron

Choice of **one** Patron Collector Print

Renie Adams, "Point of View"  
 Michael Barnes, "Sideshow"  
 David Driesbach, "Opening Night"  
 Carl Hayano, "Sushi Trinitron"  
 Ben Mahmoud, "Night Garden"

### Sponsor

Choice of **one** Sponsor Collector Print

Sidney Chafetz, "Public Servant"  
 William Daley, "Untitled"  
 David Driesbach, "The Pied Piper"  
 Larry Gregory, "Conkles Hollow, Ohio"  
 John Pitman Weber, "Distant Soweto"

\*Subject to print availability.

## Membership

**YES!** I want to  **Join**  **Renew** at the indicated level below: *Students and Seniors please enclose copy of current I.D.*

**Benefactor \$500**     **Patron \$250**     **Sponsor \$100**

**Friend** select one

- Individual \$25     Dual \$45 (2 members one household)  
 Senior \$15     Dual Senior \$25  
 Student \$10

I would like to help with an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

### Premiums - make checks payable to NIU.

Premium Selection \_\_\_\_\_ Print Series Selection \_\_\_\_\_

### Charitable Donation - make checks payable to NIU Foundation.

Please keep my premium. Use my entire gift for exhibitions, programming and collection care by making a charitable donation through the NIU Foundation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please charge: Visa Mastercard Discover Amer Exp Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### I am interested in volunteering for:

Baking/Receptions    Housing artists/scholars overnight    Gallery Attendant/Information Desk    Researching Get-On-The-Bus Trips    Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serving on an Advisory Panels: (Area of Interest: Events    Fundraiser    Education/Outreach    Exhibitions    Collections)

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

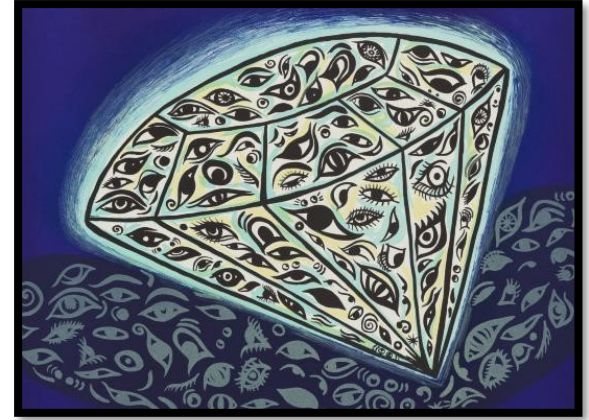
## 8. Collection Spotlight

### Cultural Exchange

Helen Oji

Helen Oji is a New York based artist from Sacramento, California, who has earned recognition in the New York art scene for her artistic vision. Oji is often inspired by her Japanese heritage, which has influenced her to combine European, American, and Asian influences through the mediums of painting, photography, sculpture, prints, and set designs. Oji's artwork has been a part of exhibitions across the nation and can be found in notable permanent collections such as the Library of Congress.

The title of the print, *Cultural Exchange*, was inspired by a group of paintings that utilized images of diamonds and eyes (in many forms) representing multiculturalism. According to the artist, "the diamond is a universal symbol of luminous being, light, brilliance, and life; eyes are the stars...the process of seeing represents a spiritual act and symbolizes understanding."



Helen Oji. *Cultural Exchange*, 1996. Offset lithograph, 17.5 x 23 in. NIU Art Museum Collection 2022.11. Part of the Brandywine Print Workshop and Archives Satellite Campus Collection at the NIU Art Museum.

Serving Campus and Community by Balancing Traditional and Contemporary Art to Explore the Connections Made through Visual Culture.

The exhibitions and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency, the Friends of the NIU Art Museum, the NIU Art and Culture Fee; and the College of Visual and Performing Arts' Season Presenting Sponsor Shaw Media and WNIJ/WNIU.



Gallery Hours  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday  
Noon to 6 p.m., Thursday, Friday  
Noon to 3 p.m., Saturday  
Also by appointment for group tours. Closed  
university holidays and between exhibitions.

NIU Art Museum  
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Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
815-753-1936  
[niu.edu/artmuseum](http://niu.edu/artmuseum)

