

NIU Art Museum Vol. 22, Issue 3, Spring 2018

Welcome to our newest Members!

New Members

Thom and
Carol Kapheim
Amy Levin
Alicia Ryley
Promod and Anju Vohra

Renewals

Michael and Elaine Bennett **Judy Burgess** Herb Deutsch and Ellen Roth Ann Fricke Patricia Galvan Norden Gilbert and Ben Thomas David and Linda Groat Richard F. Grott Janet Hathaway Jeff and Mary Kowalski Sheila McHugh Colette Michael Jan Modloff Michael and Cherilyn Murer Peter Olson Dale Osterle Caroline Quinlan John and Uli Rooney Terri Smialek Beverly Ann Smith Jerry and Ging Smith **Ruth Anne Tobias** Sophia Varcados Patricia S. Vary Christine Worley and Peter Hood Jerrold and Carol Zar Norma Zopp

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 community, and beyond.

Thank you!



Spring 2018 Exhibitions

South Asian Traditions and New Directions

This spring's exhibition series focuses on the art and diverse culture of South Asia. The exhibition suite explores the rich traditional objects, garments and visual traditions from the region as well as presents work by contemporary artists in America tackling present-day themes of cultural influences and immigration. Artist talks, panel discussions, and gallery talks all present individual artists' perspectives on their work while several of our lectures provide a cultural backdrop for the exhibitions. Finally, our *Get-on-the Bus* excursions provide a selection of the sights, sounds and tastes of South Asian musical dance performances, religious practices and the region's cuisine. Please join us this spring for these exhibitions and many events. • Exhibitions continued page 2.





This spring's exhibitions feature site-specific installations in the Art Museum's galleries where the artists were on hand to transform the gallery walls with their work. Left: Artist Nandini Chirimar (left) instructs Graduate Assistant Zeinab Saab during her site drawing installation on view in Reclaimed Baggage. Right: Shaurya Kumar (left) along with his studio assistant press his soot laden stencil onto the gallery wall to transfer the architectural image seen in All We are Breaking are Stones.

Public Receptions

March 27 – May 18
Reclaimed Baggage

Public Reception

Thursday, March 29, 5 – 6:30 p.m., South Galleries

Panel Discussion with artists 6:40 – 8:15 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

April 6 – May 18 **All We are Breaking are Stones**

Across Space and Time

Public Reception

Thursday, April 5, 5 – 7:30 p.m., North and Rotunda Galleries **Artist Gallery Talk: Shaurya Kumar** 6 – 6:30 p.m., Rotunda Gallery

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

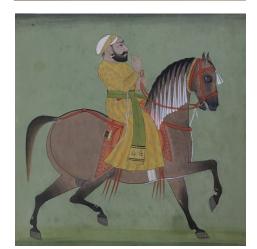
To sign-up, visit niu.edu/artmuseum/about/ contact-us.shtml

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

Spring Exhibitions Opening







Above: Pallavi Sharma. Carry On. Found suitcase, soil and barley grass. n.d. Courtesy the artist. Middle: Shaurya Kumar. *Pittu*. 2016. Foam, handmade paper with cotton and abaca, Methyl Cellulose, rubber, wool fleece, thread and caulk, (48 x 96") stacked. 30.7" ball diameter Installation documentation courtesy the artist. Bottom: Artist unknown, Figure on horse. 19th century. Gouache and gold leaf on paper, (9.125 x 9.25"). Courtesy Robert Wolfe, Jr.

Reclaimed Baggage

Reclaimed Baggage, is a group exhibition of seven South Asian American women artists that reveals layered, complex and powerful expressions of the self and their world. Their work addresses displacement, identity and agency. Migration and globalization play a pivotal role on the formation of identity. Despite overwhelming pressure on women to be the transmitters and upholders of culture, migration is an opportunity for reinventing one's self as one navigates a new cultural landscape.

In an increasingly polarized world, this exhibition creates opportunities for connection—creating a space for dialog on the formation of identity influenced by globalization. The

exhibition brings together artists who either derive inspiration from their cultural background and memories or focus on current challenges navigating two identities. Curator Nirmal Raja said of the exhibition, "I see my curatorial practice as an extension of my art making. This exhibition is particularly close to my heart as these artists hold a mirror to my own work as an artist while demonstrating the richness, complexity and challenges that come with being hyphenated Americans.".

Artists include: Fariba Alam, Nandini Chirimar, Sabba S, Elahi, Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, Samanta Batra Mehta, Hiba Schahbaz, Pallavi Sharma. Curated by artist and independent curator Nirmal Raja.

All We are Breakina are Stones

All We are Breaking are Stones is an exhibition of work by Chicago artist Shaurva Kumar who reflects on loss. destruction, iconoclasm and marginalization. The raw materiality of his installations combined with the representation of architectural forms suggest ruin but are layered with notions of transformation and narrative. Shaurya's exhibition draws reference His subjects, both local and global, focus on imagery and themes of decay and destruction, especially the remains of buildings. These works offer a alimpse into the fate of relics that have succumbed to harsh natural elements, the passage of time and blows of human neglect. Shaurya ponders, what becomes of these landscapes as new meanings are superimposed over older, original histories and their cultures?

Shaurya commented, "I explore the ruins of ancient architecture and territories decimated by urban sprawl, human neglect and even greed. The works reflect on how our past that was once our identity and matter of pride are aettina increasinaly obviated. mutilated, and sometimes entirely lost." from two sources—an 18th century poem by Meer Taqui Meer titled, "I am A Citizen of that Ruined Place," that arieves the loss of Muahal culture in India to invaders and Taliban leader Mullah Omar's 2001 orders to destroy ancient pre-Islamic Bamiyan Buddha statues. Both sources evoke a sense of destruction and loss of culture through conquest, occupation and human intervention.

Across Space and Time: Cultural Perseverance of Indian Heritage

Smell the sandalwood on reverently rubbed god-figures and a wedding canister still redolent of frankincense. Behold gorgeous, traditional articles of clothing worn ceremonially just this year, and household shrines used today the same way they were a century or two ago. Explore beautiful, meaningful and functional threads joining past and present. Across Space and Time:

Cultural Perseverance of Indian Heritage celebrates the living culture of India through artifacts that explore the beautiful, meaningful and functional threads joining past and present.

Curated by the ART 656 Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation graduate students enrolled in the NIU interdisciplinary Certificate in Museum Studies.

Staff Announcements and Collection Database

Museum Staff

Jo Burke, Director Peter Olson, Assistant Director Stuart W. Henn, Coordinator Marketing and Education

Graduate Assistants

Millicent Kennedy Nora Zeinab Saab

Museum Assistants

Isabel Angulo Georgi Beck Avery LaPlante Olivia Monteiro Ari Norris Sarah O'Heron Elizabeth Russo

Exhibition Advisory Committee

Michael Bennett Mary Glynn Boies Nina Rizzo Diane Rodgers Peter Van Ael

Education Advisory Committee

Joshua Anderson Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz Kryssi Staikidis

If you are interested in joining the Museum's volunteers contact the Museum to share your talents!

Visit niu.edu/artmuseum Phone: 815-753-1936 Email: artmuseum@niu.edu

Receive our email updates by visiting our website: niu.edu/artmuseum/contactus.



Friend us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @NIUArtmuseum

Parking is available in the Visitor Pay Lot located at 200 Carroll Ave., east of Annie Glidden Rd. on Lincoln Hwy. Limited metered spots and handicapped parking is available in front of front of Altgeld and Lowden Halls. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weeknights.

Staff Announcements

Stuart Henn recently juried Rockford Art Museum's 77th Annual Young Artists exhibition of high school student portfolios with photographer and NIU alumnus Juan Fernandez. Henn and Fernandez selected over 140 individual works from public, private and home-schooled art

Millicent Kennedy Nora's MFA Thesis show, Topographical Anatomy of the Domestic, will open Thursday, April 26 at the 215 Gallery on Fourth Street, DeKalb with a public reception from 5 – 8 p.m. Her work will also appear in the third-year MFA show, nitty-gritty, March 28 - April 21 at the ARC Gallery, Chicago with opening reception on March 30, from 6 – 9 p.m.

Ari Norris announced he has been commissioned to create a sculpture of famed Muskegon, Michigan native Clarence Zylman, World War II's "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." The project is a collaboration between Norris, Muskegon Community College, of which Ari is an alumnus, and the Muskegon Downtown Arts Committee. The sculpture is scheduled to be finished for dedication on Veterans Day 2018.

The Schingoethe Center of Aurora University requested **Peter Olson's** installation and layout expertise for their career retrospective exhibition titled Rick Bartow: Things You Know but Cannot Explain. Over the course of two days Olson helped install and layout the ambitious show of hundreds of paintings and sculptures; many were large-scale works.



Arts Blog

Sign up for the Arts Blog

Keep up with the most interesting stories from all of the areas that make up Northern Illinois University's College of Visual and Performing Arts, and don't miss any of our exciting upcoming events.

http://niuarts.com/newsletter-opt-in/







Collection Database Soon to be Available Online

Very soon, the Museum will make a portion of our collection database publicly available on our website. The first stage of this multi-phase project will allow online visitors to search and view a selected number of works from the Museum's holdings through this public portal. Each entry will have an image and basic information about the work. If all goes well, the Museum plans to launch the site July 1.

Over the past two years, Curator Pete Olson and our Graduate Assistants have been working with our software provider to prepare for this launch and busily working to transfer and update hundreds of catalog record entries. Much of the meticulous work requires entering the detailed records of each work into the system and photographing each piece in the Museum's collection. Recently, retired NIU Creative Service photographer Robert Banke started volunteering his photography skills to assist with professionally photo documenting the collection. Approximately half of the 1,700 accessioned works in the collection have been photographed and will be made available online.

While the entire collection of 2,500 works is not yet fully in the database, we are excited to make what is entered and photographed available. This decision greatly increases the access to artworks that may not have been exhibited for some time for our students, faculty, general visitors, scholars, and other arts institutions. As the Museum continues to accession work the online database will continue to grow as well. We hope this new capability broadens the reach of our works, enriches interaction with our collection and provides a valuable teaching and research tool. We hope you browse and explore our growing collection!

Namesake

Events



Tuesday, March 27
OHANA Public Program
"Memory, Movement, Location"
Artist talk by artist/curator Nirmal
Raja with light reception
following. Hosted by the Asian
American Resource Center.
5 – 6 p.m., Capitol Room, Holmes
Student Center.

Thursday, March 29 **Public Reception** for

Reclaimed Baggage
5 – 6:30 p.m., South Gallery **Panel Discussion** co-chaired by

NIU Professor Kristen Myers,

Director, Center for the Study of

Women, Gender and Sexuality

and guest-curator Nirmal Raja

with artists from the exhibition.

6:40 – 8:15 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

"writing the unknown" Performance and Communal Embroidery Workshop with artist Sabba S. Elahi Location/Date TBD

Thursday, April 5 **Public Reception** for

All We are Breaking are Stones
and Across Space and Time
5 – 7:30 p.m., North/Rotunda **Artist Gallery Talk: Shaurya Kumar**6 – 6:30 p.m., Rotunda Gallery



Tuesday, April 10 The Namesake Film screening

Directed by Mira Nair, the 2006 drama follows firstgeneration Indian-American Gogol,

played by Kal Penn, who wants to fit in among his peers as he balances his family's traditional customs. A family death forces Gogol to come to terms with his own name and family heritage. PG13 | 122 min. 6 – 8:30 p.m., Montgomery Hall, Auditorium



Wednesday,
April 1 1
"Religion Made
Visible: The
Traditional Sacred
Art of India"
Lecture with

Richard M. Cooler, NIU Emeritus Art History Professor 5:10 – 5:50 p.m., Altgeld 315

Thursday, April 19
"India: The Visual Landscape"
Horn, Please! screening and discussion with Ola Giza,
Associate Professor, Design and Media, Visual Communications,
NIU School of Art and Design; and Shantanu Suman, Associate
Professor, Visual Communications,
Ball State University.
5:10 – 6:30 p.m., Altgeld 125



Wednesday, April 25 Meet the Patels Film screening This 2014 documentary/comedy starring Ravi Patel, who plays himself, documents his search for a wife in the traditional Indian way with help from his parents and extended family. PG | 88 min. 6 – 7:30 p.m., Montgomery Hall, Auditorium

Thursday, April 26 "Influence and Impact"

Americans who have traveled, worked and studied in India. Artist Slide and Sound Talks by Christine Lofaso, Professor and Division Head, Fine Arts Studio, Fiber; and Bart Woodstrup, Associate Professor, Design and Media, Time Arts, NIU School of Art and Design. 5:10 – 5:50 p.m., Altgeld 315

Tuesday, May 1
The HundredFoot Journey
Film screening
with Spice
Mixing
Demonstration
Starring Helen
Mirren and Om
Puri the drama
follows a family



of talented cooks who flee political oppression and arrive in France where they become rivals of a French haute cuisine owner played by Helen Mirren. The resulting rivalry and eventual friendship changes both sides. PG | 122 min. 6 – 8:30 p.m., Montgomery Hall, Auditorium

Saturday, May 5

Open for Artigras!

NIU/DeKalb Celebration of the Arts
3 – 7 p.m.

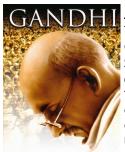
Continued next page.

Events continued/Get-on-the-Bus Excursions

Sunday, May 6
Yoga Practice and Process
1 – 2 p.m., Altgeld 125

A series of public Sunday events presented by the students in the Art 656: Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation course are in the works.

Stay tuned for more info! Continue to check for updates and additions online by visiting <u>niu.edu/artmuseum/events</u>.



A Related Event! Thursday, April 12 Great Souls Film Series presents Gandhi

The 1982 acclaimed epic drama presents major biographical events in the life of

Mohandas Gandhi portrayed by Academy Award winning actor Ben Kingsley. Dedicated to the concept of nonviolent resistance, Gandhi became the beloved Indian leader who stood against British rule of his country.

PG | 191min.

7 p.m., Egyptian Theatre, 135 N 2nd Street. Free admission.

Presented by the DeKalb Public Library and the Egyptian Theatre and made possible by the Brian D. Slavenas Center for Cross-Cultural Understanding.

Only have a few minutes to spare? Drop-in and join us for a quick talk!

Be in the galleries during selected times to hear a two to five-minute Flash Tour with Museum staff as they give insider explanations into a single work on view. Look for the logo label in the galleries at these Flash Tour times starting April 10:

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. Wednesday 3:30 p.m. Thursday 12:30 p.m. Thursday 5:15 p.m.*

* Except during other scheduled Museum events.



Friday, April 6

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple

Enjoy a guided-tour of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a Hindu holy place of worship in Bartlett. Learn about the sacred images and ceremonies of worship as well as the intricate carvings and architectural treatises integral to Indian architecture for thousands of years. After, take time to visit the Asharpith Gift and Book Shop for a selection of books, postcards, and DVDs. Enjoy lunch at the Shayona Café for a uniquely all-vegetarian Indian cuisine and



the Shayona Sweet and Snack Shop for snacks and sweets for the trip home. At registration, Museum staff will share with participants certain guidelines visitors are requested to follow in order to maintain the sanctity of the Mandir. Registration and Payment by 04/02/18. Departure 9 a.m. Expected Return 3 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members \$20; Non-Member Student/Senior \$25; Non-Member Adult \$30. Ticket price includes transportation. Meals and incidentals not included.

Saturday, April 28

A Meeting of Two Seas 2.0 and University of Chicago

Spend an afternoon in Hyde Park and at the University of Chicago! Enjoy music, dance, and poetry from India and Pakistan at the Rockefeller Chapel on the University of Chicago campus with concert featuring special guest Riyaaz Qawwali, an ensemble group performing traditional and modern devotional music from the regions of their homeland. The group's



musicians, who moved to the United States, are from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh and represent multiple religious and spiritual backgrounds from South Asia. Enjoy a reception hosted by the University of Chicago Spiritual Life Office and South Asian Student Association.

Registration and Payment by 04/18/18. Event and performance 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Departure 1:30 p.m. Expected Return 11 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members \$25; Non-Member Student/Senior \$30; Non-Member Adult \$35. Ticket price includes event and transportation. Meals and incidentals not included. Admission to campus museums earlier in the day on your own.

Saturday, May 19

Moods of Nayika Members Only Excursion

Join other NIU Art Museum members for this excursion to Moods of Nayika a multimedia live dance performance based on ancient poetry presented by Mandala South Asian Performing Arts, Chicago. Taken from the Ashta Nayika, an ancient treatise on Indian arts that describes eight romantic archetypal heroines presented in painting, literature, and classical dance, this modern dance performance presents the various moods or contexts of these heroines. Enjoy dining at Nepal House and experience Nepalese and Indian cuisine in the city to complete your South Asian experience.

Group size limited to 15 participants! Registration and Payment by

04/30/18. Departure 1:30 p.m. Expected Return 9:30 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members \$48; Not a member, join when you RSVP! Tickets must be purchased in advance. No refunds or cancelations are offered once tickets are purchased. Ticket price includes transportation and show tickets. Meals and incidentals not included.



Pre-registration and payment required for all Get-on-the-Bus excursions. To sign-up, please contact the NIU Art Museum by phoning 815-753-1936. Payment may be made with cash, check made out to NIU, or major credit card over the phone.

Our Volunteers

The Museum would like to extend a special thanks to the following volunteers and individuals for their continued support. Special thanks to: **Robert Banke** for collection documentation photography and installation assistance; **Gary Burchett** for mailing assistance, construction advice and installation assistance; and Graduate MFA students Sasha Bitzer and Jayden Dale who assisted Visiting Artist Nandini Chirimar with her site drawing and installation of prints.

The Art Museum would like to specially acknowledge Brian Cory; Amanda Helfers; Kay Jansen; Rachelle Wilson-Loring; and Adina Salmansohn, Interdisciplinary Certification of Graduate Study in Museum Studies students in the Art 656: Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation course and instructor Peter Van Ael for curating Across Space and Time: Cultural Perseverance of Indian Heritage.

Support

The exhibitions and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored by part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts; and the Friends of the NIU Art Museum.

Exhibitions

Additional support came from Promod and Anju Vohra; Gurukrupa Indian Grocery and Copy Services; The Barbara Cole Peters Fund for the NIU Art Museum; Northern Illinois University's Asian American Resource Center; Indian Student Association; Muslim Student Association; Visual Communications, Design and Media Division, School of Art and Design; Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality; the Interdisciplinary Certification of Graduate Study in Museum Studies; College of Education; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Artwork and objects for the exhibitions are on loan from DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana; SepiaEYE Gallery, New York, New York; exhibiting artists and private lenders.

Below: Graduate MFA student Terrance Grey at the opening reception for the Faculty Exhibition as visitors enjoy work in the galleries, Right: Art Museum Members, **Elaine and Mike Bennett** appreciate Fine Arts Studio Painting faculty Frank Trankina's work.





Annual Members

Thank you for your generous commitments!

Sponsor Members

Michael Barnes and Kryssi Staikidis Rudolf and Ingebora Bisanz Peggy Burke and Ed Wietecha Susan Carter and Robert Sabin John and Nancy Castle Edward and Donna Flanagan Lesley Gilbert Stephen and Deborah Haliczer Janet Hathaway Stuart Henn Steven A. Johnson Ronald G. Klein Jerry and Miriam Meyer Mrs. William Monat James and Dianne Moss Nicholas Noe Peter Olson Mary B. Olson Patricia Perkins Mary Quinlan-McGrath Brian Reis and Mary E. LaClair Maureen and Morley Russell Dan and Virginia Seymour Terri Smialek Sharon Tourville Patricia S. Varv Lynne M. Waldeland

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Benefactor Members

Richard and Thecla Cooler Jerry and Annette Johns Kathleen and Richard Katz Barbara and John Peters

Thank you for your continued support.

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



BECOME A FRIEND!

Engage and benefit from a closer connection with the arts! Enjoy early-bird announcements, discounts, and members' only events. Take satisfaction in your vital commitment to support our exhibitions, programs and the preservation of our collection. Join Now!

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

Friends Level

Individual \$25 / Dual \$45 (2 people, one address) / Student \$10 / Senior \$15 / Dual Senior \$25 (2 seniors, one address)

Sponsor \$100

Choice of one Sponsor Collector Print Series:

Sidney Chafetz, Public Servant
William Daley, Untitled (sketches for ceramics)
David Driesbach, The Pied Piper
Larry Gregory, Conkles Hollow, Ohio
Peter Olson, Hummingbird Nebula
Charlotte Rollman, Hopkins Park, DeKalb
John Pitman Weber, Distant Soweto

Patron \$250

Choice of one Patron Collector Print Series:

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

Benefactor \$500

Choice of one Benefactor Collector Print Series:

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

Membership Level Benefits	Friend	Sponsor	Patron	Benefactor
Choice of one Friends of the NIU Art Museum premium				
Priority registration and discounted fees on museum activities	-	•	•	
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 members' newsletter	-	•	•	•
Recognition in Museum Notes			•	
Name engraved on Membership Plaque in Museum			•	
Private tour (options available)				



YES! I want toJoinRenew at the indicated level below	w: Students and Seniors please enclose copy of current I.D.
Individual \$25 / Dual \$45 (2 people, one address) / Student	t \$10 / Senior \$15 / Dual Senior \$25 (2 seniors, one address)
Sponsor \$100 Patron \$250 Benefactor \$500	I would like to help with an additional donation of \$
$\hfill \square$ Please keep my premium and use my entire gift for programming and co	ollection care.
Premium Selection Print Series Selection	on
Name	Payment
City State ZIP	Please charge: Visa Mastercard Discover Amer Exp Expiration
Phone Mobile	Account number
I am interested in volunteering for:	
Baking/Receptions Housing artists/scholars overnight Gallery Attendant/Inf	formation Desk Researching Get-On-The-Bus Trips Other

Serving on an Advisory Panels: (Area of Interest: Events Fundraiser Education/Outreach Exhibitions Collections)



Artwork Featured in Exhibition

The Art Museum recently received a gift of art work to the collection from the DLA Piper Law Firm of Chicago that included three collages by John Fraser, an NIU alumnus, and also a mixed media lithograph and woodcut by John Himmelfarb. Both artists were featured in the recent New to the Collection: Recent Acquisitions exhibition curated by Pete Olson this winter.

Fraser reuses old materials such as paper envelopes, wooden rulers and antique shirt collars. In this particular collage, a page from a botanical textbook and antique paper mimic the shape of a Japanese kimono. John Fraser. Continuum (Return). 1997. Paper collage. Gift of DLA Piper LLP (US).

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

The NIU Art Museum First Floor, West End of Altgeld Hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Castle Drives on the main campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL.

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; and the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, NIU Foundation.









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Gallery Hours: Tu, W, F 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Th Moon - 7 p.m.; Sun Moon - 4 p.m.; and by appointment for group tours. Closed Easter, April 1. niu.edu/artmuseum

> MIV Art Museum Altgeld Hall 116, First Floor, West End 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy. Northern Illinois University DeKalb, Illinois 60115 815-753-1936

