



Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum

Become a
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NIU Art Museum!

New Members

- Michael and Elizabeth Denius
- Matthew and Shelby Edelmann
- Paul and Elizabeth Eisen

Renewals

- Robert Banke
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- Peggy Burke
- Mary Burns
- Richard and Thecla Cooler
- Herb Deutsch
- Joanne Dillman
- Larry Ehrke
- Edward and Donna Flanagan
- Patricia Galvan
- Richard F. Grott
- James Hovis and Cathy Nefstead
- Barbara Hulseberg
- Teresa Iversen
- Steven A. Johnson
- Anne C. Kaplan
- Kathleen and Richard Katz
- Ronald G. Klein
- Mary E. Lincoln
- Sheila McHugh
- David and Marcie McMahon
- Liz Mehren and Joe Shapera
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- Dianne and James Moss
- Maria Ocasio and Ev Soltys
- Linda Oster
- Sherry Lee Patterson
- Patricia Perkins
- Linda Peterson
- Bryan Perry
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- Maureen and Morley Russell
- Dan and Virginia Seymour
- Ivan and Judith Shils
- Rosemarie Slavenas
- Terri Smialek
- Sally Stevens
- Lynne Waldeland
- Christine Worley and Peter Hood
- Jerrold and Carol Zar



Eleanor Spiess-Ferris. *Listening—For Alice Rose*, 2010. Oil on canvas, 34 x 44 in. Donated by Susan Arnold to the NIU Art Museum Collection, 2023.
The above image is on display in Jo's office helping to give her inspiration for the "Dialogue" exhibit.

Director's Notes:

Visiting a gallery is generally a passive experience – contemplative, yes, but it can also be challenging. I invite you to approach your gallery visits a different way. Since the gallery is free, consider visiting a show repeatedly for multiple viewings with more intensive and extensive looking and listening. Then visit again with another person for sharing each of your experiences, talking about the shows and developing a deeper awareness.

Our fall exhibitions deal with two topics I thought we all needed a bit more of: dialogue and mourning. Too much doubt in our shared humanity; too little understanding of another's experience. "Dialogue" asks that we look and listen before we judge. Take the time to view and hear what is being presented or being said before we react or respond. "The Remaining, Mourn..." gives us a chance to work toward healing. Too much needing to move forward and onward and not getting time to contemplate, meditate, freeze a moment in time and embrace a memory. Mourning is very personal. Mourning takes time.

I am very pleased to have NIU alumna Millicent Kennedy (MFA, Fine Art Studio: Printmaking, 2018) one of our former graduate assistants and current extra-help preparators guest co-curate "The Remaining, Mourn...." with another artist, Michael Chambers. Millicent and Michael have recreated and expanded upon a theme they had explored before in "For the Living, To the Dead" at Parlour and Ramp Gallery, a former funeral parlor in Chicago.

Our winter shows, in conjunction with the Center for Burma Studies and a compilation from private collections, a national call for entries, and by invitation deal with food, as will the show "Good Food" at The Pick Museum of Anthropology this academic year and an upcoming show at the DeKalb County History Center and local history museums.

This coming spring, we are excited to host a show developed from an artist residency that had to go virtual during Covid. "Making Our History – Artists Render Lincoln's Legacies" was produced by faculty at the University of Illinois at Springfield. UIS art studio professor Brytton Bjorngaard and Lincoln scholar Graham A. Peck worked with 20 Illinois artists given access to the Lincoln archives. We were first introduced to this show by participating artist Judith Joseph who has been in several of our group shows. Judith, being familiar with our gallery spaces, knew we could serve as a terrific venue for this show.

Jo Burke

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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.

2. Exhibitions

Fall 2023 Exhibitions: Things that Seem Needed...

Aug. 29 through Oct. 14, 2023

Public opening reception: 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, September 7. Informal gallery talk at 5:45 p.m.

Public closing reception: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 15; presentation to follow in Altgeld 125.

Dialogue

Curated by Jo Burke
South Gallery

The concept of dialogue allows for issue awareness and resolution through listening. Its goal is understanding. The artists whose work is displayed in this exhibition have worked on lens-based projects that have grown and developed organically over the years.

This exhibition will feature selections from "Lines of Authority" by Alan Cohen, "Black Box" by Michael Coppage and "The Folded Map Project" by Tonika Lewis Johnson.

These artists have taken on big complex tasks and concepts and attempted to deal with them simply. It is the hope that their art projects can reach beyond a single look or conversation into an ongoing dialogue from which empathy, understanding and enlightenment can grow. The concerns of these artists are the concerns of a people, a city, a nation, the world.



From the series "Black Box" by
Michael Coppage.



Alan Cohen. *Montana/Wyoming State Line at the 45th Parallel, One-Half Distance Exactly Between Equator and the North Pole at the Continental Divide.*



Nirmal Raja,
Wrung Out.

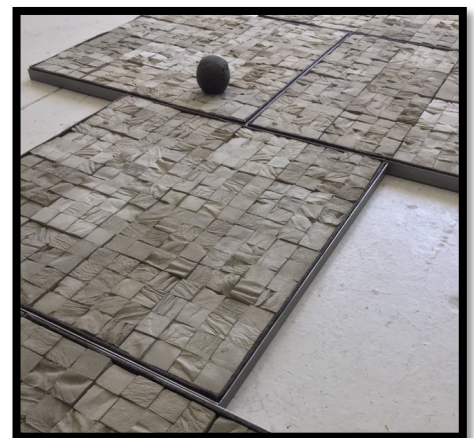
The Remaining, Mourn...

Curated by Michael Chambers and
Millicent Kennedy
North and Rotunda Galleries

"The Remaining, Mourn..." is a group exhibition addressing the experience of grieving as seen through the lens of nine artists' practices. Through tactile artworks, they address both individual and collective loss. Holding materials as one would onto someone lost, these artists use various techniques to freeze a moment, allowing themselves time to process what remains as well as what is gone. Their materials, and the memories and emotions they evoke, become the "language" the artists use to create their own rituals to navigate grief/mourning and work toward healing.

The artists featured in this exhibition include Selva Aparicio, Michael Chambers, April Dauscha, Salvador Jiménez-Flores, Millicent Kennedy, Allen Moore, Monika Ploplyte, Nirmal Raja and Anne Wilson.

Cumulatively, their works and the stories they tell remind us that we—from family to community to civilization—are united by our vulnerability.



Selva Aparicio,
Tejo.

Upcoming exhibits:

"Food for the Soul: Belief and Healing in Burma/Myanmar in the Age of COVID"

"What is for Supper? What is a Meal?"

Nov. 14 to Dec. 16, 2023 and **Jan. 16 to Feb. 17, 2024.** We will be closed during university holiday.

"Making Our History—Artists Render Lincoln's Legacies"

Mar. 26 to May 12, 2024.

Museum Staff

Jo Burke, Director
 Peter Olson, Assistant Director
 Shelby Edelmann, Program Assistant

Extra Help Preparator

Millicent Kennedy

Museum Assistants

Yesenia Arroyo
 Rory Bis-Markel
 Devin Gonzalez
 Ryan Sarau-Young
 Abbey Skelton
 Andrew Valdovinos


Museum Intern


Sophie Bergagna
 (summer '23)

Exhibition Advisory Committee

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

Visit niu.edu/artmuseum
 Phone: 815-753-1936
 Email: artmuseum@niu.edu
 E-news: go.niu.edu/artmuseum-e-news

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 Follow us on Twitter
 @NIUArtmuseum

Parking on campus is now administered through AIMS Mobile Pay or Parking Pay Stations available in the [Visitor Pay Lot](#) located at 200 Carroll Ave and at accessible parking spaces 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

Our staff has been working to improve the online presence of our Permanent Collection. Check it out at niuartmuseum.catalogaccess.com.

Collection Spotlight: Sean Starwars

The *nom-de-plume* Sean Starwars fits the strong pop-culture leanings of this southern artist who created the print on page 8 while visiting NIU ten years ago. Professor **Michael Barnes** invited Sean here because of his slightly unhinged approach to the traditional printmaking medium of woodcut and his reputation as an "Outlaw Printmaker" along with characters such as Bill Fick and Tom Huck (both of whom have also visited NIU and contributed prints to our collection), and Mike Houston and Martin Mazzorra of Cannonball Press (their exhibition "Root Hog or Die" was held at the NIU Art Museum in 2010).

In addition to making woodcuts for over twenty-five years, Sean has been an Adjunct Professor, a janitor and a used car salesman. Sean currently works full-time as a printmaker and exhibits in solo and group exhibitions nationally and has contributed to numerous print exchange portfolio collaborations, including one at NIU, in 2003. The "NIU Print Blitz 2003" portfolio includes his woodcut "Gator Bite" (featured below).

As stated by the artist, "I choose the format of the large-scale color woodcut because it best suits my energy-charged, caffeine-induced, aggressive approach to image making. Charles Bukowski, Ms. Pacman, Phillip Guston and Neil Blender are among my influences. Somewhere along the way, I realized that I could accomplish my goals as an artist without enslaving myself to the meticulous obsessions of "traditional" printmaking. I don't slow down to make perfect drawings or to finesse my color registration. I hammer out the carvings and blast out the prints, and move on to the next print, the next day. My primary concern is to create a strong visual infused with a sense of satirical humor, in other words I like to tell funny stories using funny pictures." *Continued on page 8...*

Your participation requested!

We are looking to borrow your treasured old lunch box or cookie jars for display in the Art Museum's Hall Case Gallery during the upcoming food show. Cabinets are only 10" deep.

Contact us by October 20.

We are also seeking magazines with pictures that we may cut up during the SoulCollage® Workshop slated for September 10. **Drop off by September 2.**

Staff Announcements

We are pleased to announce we have an undergraduate intern working with us this summer. Sophie Bergagna (Studio Art major, Art History minor) has been assisting with the selection of artwork for our annual Art to Lend program, assisting our Exhibition Advisory Committee in the selection of artists for our upcoming winter exhibit and the preservational cleaning of artwork with guidance from Peter Olson.

CVPA Arts Newsletter

niuarts.com/newsletter-opt-in/

Arts Blog

niuarts.com/



Sean Starwars. *Gator Bite*, 2003. Woodcut on paper, 15 x 20 in. NIU Art Museum Collection 2003.5.7.

4. Events Calendar

Bus Trips

Thursday, September 7

Opening Reception, 5 to 7 p.m.

Join us for the opening reception of "Dialogue" and "The Remaining, Mourn..." in the **Art Museum Galleries**. Informal curator and artist talk for "The Remaining, Mourn..." begins at 5:45 p.m. Refreshments provided.

Sunday, September 10

SoulCollage® Workshop* for Survivors and Mourners, 1 to 4 p.m.

SoulCollage® is an expressive arts practice founded by psychotherapist Seena B. Frost. The intention of the workshop is to offer an inclusive visual tool that can be used for exploring, healing and empowering personal and collective evolution. This workshop will be conducted by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell who has facilitated workshops all over the country. Participants will create collaged cards for their personal use by gluing together found images. Each collage should mirror the relationships, values, interests and intentions of the individual creating them.



Altgeld Hall, 125

*This workshop is ages **17 and up**. Limited to sixteen participants. Free, but register by September 8.

Thursday, September 28

The Landscape of Loss—Navigating Gently and with Resilience, 6 to 7 p.m.

Program with Jen Conley, Bereavement Coordinator with Northern Illinois Hospice—time for Q&A at the end.

Altgeld Hall, 125



Sunday, Oct. 15

Closing Reception, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Join us for the closing reception of "Dialogue" and "The Remaining, Mourn..." in the **Art Museum Galleries**. Refreshments provided.

"Dialogue" Artists Presentation **Program to follow in Altgeld 125.**

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.

Friday, September 15

Members & NIU Printmaking Students Only: Rockford Art Museum (RAM)

In conjunction with our "Dialogue" exhibit, we will visit "Constant Pressure" at RAM featuring work from artists of the Fatherless Print Posse, a Rockford-based artist collaborative that explores socially conscious ideas through printmaking. Founding Fatherless member, Dave Menard, will meet with us to discuss their work and the show.

Registration and payment due Sept. 13

Departure 10 a.m. Expected return 4 p.m.
Price: \$30



Friday, September 22

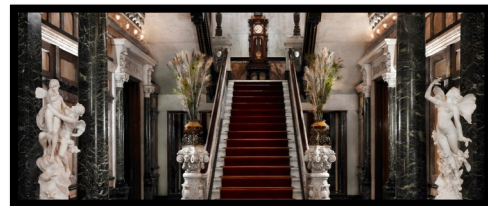
Crab Tree Farm (Lake Bluff) & The Driehaus Museum (Chicago)

Private guided tours of the Arts and Crafts collection at Crab Tree Farm and Driehaus Museum with additional time to see their exhibit "Hector Guimard: Art Nouveau to Modernism." Crab Tree Farm is only open to group-organized tours.

Call us today to reserve your seat!

Registration and payment due Sept. 6

Departure 8 a.m. Expected return 6:30 p.m.
Price: \$75 Members, \$80 Sr/Students, \$90 Non-member



Sunday, November 19

Illinois Holocaust Museum (Skokie)

In conjunction with our food shows, we will visit "I'll Have What She's Having: The Jewish Deli." Lunch at a deli and then stop at Mitsuwa Japanese Marketplace.

Call us today to reserve your seat!

Registration and payment due Nov. 3

Departure 9 a.m. Expected return 6:30 p.m.
Price: \$50 Members/Sr, \$60 Non-members, \$45 Students under 22



Thank You!

Thanks to those who made our spring exhibitions and programs not only possible but successful despite some challenges we faced. We are pleased to note that Peter Olson is doing much better after his heart surgery. Thank you for your healing thoughts and prayers.

Program Participants for Poetry Night: Rick and Bonnie Amesquita, John Bradley, Joe Gastiger, Becky Parfitt and **Rich Rice**.

Lenders of artwork from their private collection for "Local Visions II": **Michael Barnes, Michael Bennett, Aleksandra "Ola" Giza, Doug and Julie Jeppesen, Michael Noland, Ari Norris, Peter Olson, Rich Rice** and **Christo Watson**.

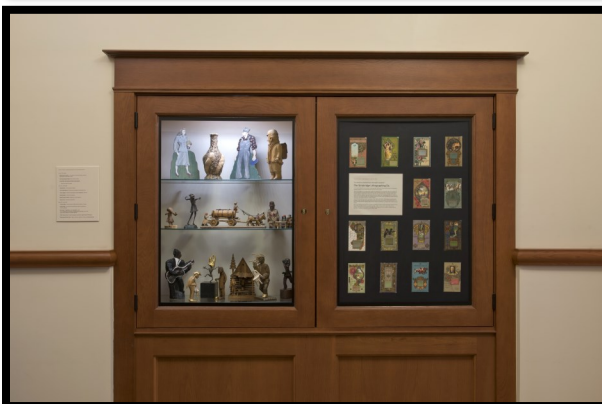
Guest Curation and Installation Crew: Carmin Berchiolly, John Hosta, Chloe Insley, Aung Htet Moe, Lay Mu, **Catherine Raymond** and Maeve Wallace, The Center for Burma Studies.

Creative and Technical Support, Food Prep and Art Transport: **Robert Banke, Michael Bennett, Gary Burchett, Andy Dolan, Ola Giza, Doug Jeppesen, Ari Norris, Sophia Vercados, NIU Media Services, and Supplied Solutions.**

Funding Partners: The Illinois Arts Council Agency, The NIU Arts and Culture Fee, WNIU/WNIJ and Shaw Media.

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

Photos from Local Visions II:



Photos from Americans in Burma:
The Art of Collecting:



6. Sustaining Members

Sustaining Members

Friends

Macus Alonso
Robert Banke
Joyce Barker
Elizabeth Bass
Joe and Cindy Baumgart
Donna Benson
Pat L. Brown
Gary Burchett
Mary Burns
Gary and Dee Coover
AnnaMarie Coveny
Stacey Deegan
Herb Deutsch
Jan Devore
Joanne Dillman
Larry Ehrke
Patricia and Steven Favire
Claudia Frost
Brian and Linda Fulton
David and Linda Groat
Daniel Grych
James Hovis and Cathy Nefstead
Jitka Hurych
Teresa Iverson
Charles Larry and Emmylou Studier
Donna M. Leonard
Mary E. Lincoln
Karen Matz and John Skowronski
Sheila McHugh
David and Marcie McMahon
Liz Mehren and Joe Shapera
Jan Modloff
Maria Ocasio and Ev Soltys
Juliann K. Olsen
Linda Oster
David Parker
Sherry Lee Patterson
Linda Peterson
Caroline Quinlan
Rich Rice and John Calimee
Diane Rodgers
Michael and Robin Rothamer
Bill and Kathy Scarpaci
Ivan and Judith Shils
Rosemarie Slavenas
Beverly Ann Smith
Jerry and Ging Smith
Philip and Johanna Vandrey
Sophia Varcados and Jen Conley
Jerrold and Carol Zar

Sponsors

Renie Adams
Fred Barnhart
Rudolf and Ingeborg Bisanz
Molly Burke
Peggy Burke
Susan Carter and Robert Sabin
Michael and Elizabeth Denius
Matthew and Shelby Edelmann
Paul and Elizabeth Eisen
Edward and Donna Flanagan
Donna Gable and Ken Rodd
Patricia Galvan
Stephen and Deborah Haliczzer
Barbara Hulseberg
Steven A. Johnson
Ronald G. Klein
Sandra and Howard Little
Jerry and Miriam Meyer
Gretchen Moore
Dianne 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
Ronald G. Klein
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
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.



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

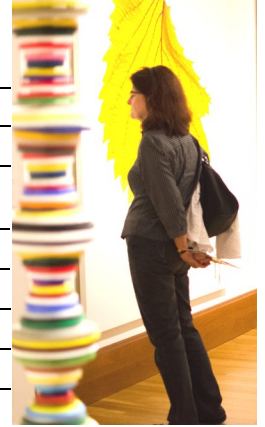
Sponsor \$100

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

Senior \$15

Student \$10

Dual \$45 (2 members one household)

Dual Senior \$25

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, continued from page 3



Sean's woodblock prints convey a good-natured yet aggressive approach to image making, capturing his energy in the carving and use of striking color. His work can be seen in museums and private homes, and on book covers, album covers, magazines, television programs, films and commercials. Sean earned an MFA in Printmaking from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and his BFA from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He lives in Laurel, Mississippi with his wife and five children. Oh, and for what it's worth, he drinks more Mountain Dew than anyone who has ever lived.

Left: Sean Starwars. *Wish in One Hand*, 2013. Woodcut on paper, 48 x 36 in. NIU Art Museum Collection 2016.53.

Below: Sean Starwars. *Moses*, 2013. Woodcut on paper, 7 x 48.5 in. NIU Art Museum Collection 2013.2.



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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 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy.
 Northern Illinois University
 DeKalb, Illinois 60115
 815-753-1936
niu.edu/artmuseum

