For Immediate Release
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The Northern Illinois University Art Museum is excited to present Hoarding, Amassing and Excess, a group exhibition featuring work by seventeen contemporary artists. This show will be held in the Rotunda and South Galleries of the NIU Art Museum from March 25th – May 23rd, 2014 with a public reception on April 3rd from 4:30pm – 7:00pm.

This exhibition explores the psychological, sociological and artistic impulses for accumulation, horror vacui, berserk collecting and excessive mark making.

For example, Chicago artist Jaclyn Mednicov uses the remnants of her Father’s past as fodder for her artwork. Mednicov’s father passed away a couple of years ago, leaving her the task of sorting through his seemingly endless hoard of papers, receipts and coupons. In her mixed media work, Mednicov assembles and stitches these personal artifacts together as a means of processing her lineage. In addition to her Father’s possessions, she has repurposed her Grandmother’s needlepoints in the creation of her artwork. Mednicov says she has come to view herself as “an investigator of lost and lived lives” and as a “curator of clothing, paperwork and tangles of unspoken truths”.

In terms of addressing the concept of excess, Chicago painter Celeste Rapone revels in seductive surface appeal as she creates figures masked by wrapping paper and ribbon. Her compositions celebrate shiny spectacle, but also reference gluttony, as they overflow with the remnants of “store-bought, celebratory trash”.

A complete list of exhibiting artists includes: Carrie M. Becker, Matt Davis, Robert Donley, Holly Fisher Sabiston, Mark Fox, Gary John Gresl, Hollis Hammonds, Guy Loraine, Jaclyn Mednicov, Martina Nehrling, J. Thomas Pallas, Celeste Rapone, Robert Reed, Jeff Robinson, Marjan Teeuwen, Michael Velliquette and Kristyn Weaver

The NIU Art Museum is located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall, on the campus of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, 60115. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Group tours may be arranged by appointment. More information about our exhibitions may be found on our website: www.niu.edu/artmuseum.

Funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; Friends of the NIU Art Museum; and the Dean’s Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at NIU.
Artist: Jaclyn Mednicov
Title: Current Map
Media: Mixed media
Date: 2013

Artist: Celeste Rapone
Title: Pie Contest
Media: Oil on canvas
Date: 2012

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High resolution images will be sent as a separate attachment.