

For Immediate Release

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Northern Illinois University Art Museum presents “**Assessing Exhibition Excellence**” a lecture by Deborah Wood, April 29, 5:00 p.m. in the south gallery.

Ms. Wood is senior curator at the Block Museum, Northwestern University where she takes the leading role in developing the Museum’s exhibitions and collections. Since arriving at the Block Museum in 1999 she has focused on twentieth-century art and the history and study of prints. Her prior experience includes work at the Elvehjem Museum of Art (now called the Chazen Museum of Art) in Madison, Wisconsin; the Baltimore Museum of Art in Maryland, and an assistant professorship of art at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Ms. Wood earned a BFA from Cornell University and an MFA in printmaking from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Recent exhibitions organized by Ms. Wood include: *Imaging by Numbers: A Historical View of the Computer Print* (2008); *Realist Tendencies on Paper* (2006); *Process of Abstraction: Two and Three-Dimensional Work by Modernist Sculptors* (2006); *Marion Mahony Griffin: Drawing the Form of Nature* (2005); *Maybelle Stamper: Works on Paper* (2005); and *Currents: 25 Years of Collecting Modern and Contemporary Print* (2005). Ms. Wood is author of the exhibition catalogues for *Imaging by Numbers* (2008) and *Marion Mahony Griffin* (2005), and contributing author to catalogue *Paths to the Press: Printmaking and American Women Artists, 1910–1960* (2006).

Ms. Wood will address the exhibition ***Moonlight Cocktails are the Thing*** an exhibition that attempts to summarize a lifetime of remarkable achievements by printmaker David Driesbach. Driesbach, a former professor of art at NIU, creates prints that contain rich narratives and are complex, colorful and whimsical. ***Moonlight Cocktails are the Thing*** was co-organized with students enrolled in “Exhibition Interpretation” a graduate-level Museum Studies Course.

This exhibition is part of our spring printmaking suite that also includes contemporary posters by Jay Ryan; hand printed, hand bound books by David Johnson; and a retrospective work by German artist Käthe Kollwitz. The exhibitions will run through May 9, 2009.

The NIU Art Museum is located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall, the “castle,” at the northwest corner of College and Castle Drives on the NIU campus in DeKalb. The galleries are open to the public Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 12 noon – 4 p.m., and by appointment for group tours. **Exhibitions and lectures are free**; donations are appreciated. Pay parking is available in the Visitor’s Lot on Carroll Avenue and at metered spots in front of Altgeld Hall. Free Parking is available on Saturdays and during receptions and visiting artist lectures in the lot northeast of Gilbert and College Drives. The exhibitions of the NIU Art Museum are funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the Friends of the NIU Art Museum, and the Arts Fund 21.

For more information please visit our website: [www.niu.edu/artmuseum](http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum), telephone 815-753-1936 or e-mail [darntzen@niu.edu](mailto:darntzen@niu.edu).

