

For Immediate Release:

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The Northern Illinois Art Museum in conjunction with the NIU museum studies program invites you to be immersed in the creative world of printmaker David Driesbach. *Moonlight Cocktails are the Thing* is an exhibition that spans a lifetime of expression and innovation in Driesbach's original prints. Working proofs and printing plates will also be displayed to provide a unique insight into the artist's image-making strategies and technical approaches.

The exhibition opens March 24 and runs through May 9 at the NIU Art Museum, in the south Altgeld Gallery. The opening reception is Thursday April 2, 4:30 – 7 pm with a public discussion by Driesbach in Altgeld room 315 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Driesbach will also be present on March 29, 10:30 am – 1 pm as part of ~~with~~ the Southern Graphic Arts Council's "A Day in DeKalb".

David Driesbach, Northern Illinois University Presidential Research Professor Emeritus, is internationally recognized for his unique abilities to transform printmaking media into his own vehicle for expression. This exhibition investigates the mysteries of influence and symbolism apparent in Mr. Driesbach's prints by addressing key moments of the artist's development.

His style reflects an autobiographical reality, which appears as a dream-like narrative touched with symbolism and peopled with theatrical characters, musicians, family members and even the artist himself, his top hat signifying that he is the master of ceremonies. The printmaker describes his work by asserting, "I know that I am telling stories in my prints...sometimes I don't know what the story is until the print is done. I work in an additive manner [meaning that new characters and symbols are added as the print develops]". This imaginative approach to the development of symbolic narratives often simultaneously incorporates the use of multiple printmaking techniques within one composition. Driesbach is truly a master printmaker and story-teller.

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. Special Sunday hours will be held on March 29 from 10:30 – 1:00 in conjunction with the Southern Graphics Council Conference trip to DeKalb for a day of print exhibitions. Exhibitions 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.

Two additional public events are scheduled to enhance/support/coincide with the exhibition *Moonlight Cocktails are the Thing*. Debra Wood, the senior curator at Northwestern University's Block Museum will be assessing the exhibition's strengths and weaknesses at 5pm on April 29 and Peter Olson, Assistant Director of the NIU Art Museum and former Driesbach student will share his experiences working with Driesbach and this exhibition on Saturday, May 2 at 1pm.

For more information please visit our website: www.niu.edu/artmuseum, telephone 815-753-1936 or e-mail darntzen@niu.edu. Photographs are available upon request.