Northern Illinois University Art Museum announces Exhibitions, Programs and Events.

The NIU Art Museum will present an Art of the New Deal Exhibition Suite April 8 through May 28, 2010. Exhibitions featured will be; This Great Nation Will Endure, documentary photographs from the Farm Security Administration (FSA), a national traveling exhibition organized by the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Museum and Libraries, Coming of Age: The WPA/FAP Graphic Section and the American Print, co-organized with students enrolled in “Exhibition Interpretation”, a graduate level Museum Studies course, and New Deal Era Images and Objects, Changing exhibits related to the period including influential texts, colorful machine glass of the depression era, “If FSA Today …” workshop photographs by DeKalb County high school students, and posters documenting the DeKalb Public Library’s WPA mural.

Many programs and activities are planned to coincide with these exhibitions and include collaboration between students, instructors, colleges and the community. By exhibiting this work and exploring it in depth through a broad range of programming it is hoped that museum visitors will better understand this pivotal period in American history, gain insight into the persuasive and powerful capacities of visual media, relate what they see to the economic issues and challenges they face today and possibly gain courage from exploring our past. These exhibitions are suitable for student field trips, senior groups, home school groups, families, and visitors of all ages.

Programs include:

1. Folksinger Bucky Halker will present Woody Guthrie, the Great Depression and American Protest Songs through the Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholar Program Thursday April 8th, 6:00 p.m. in Altgeld room 315. (Opening Reception takes place from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.)

2. Intergenerational Art Workshop and tour for ages 6-9 with parent, grandparent or guardian, Led by Museum Studies students, Saturday April 10, 1 – 3 p.m., pre-registration required.

3. A Panel Discussion entitled Hope and Hard Times in the Heartland: Local Voices from the Great Depression with senior citizens talking about their experiences during The Depression, will be chaired by Assistant Professor of History, Stanley Arnold. Tuesday, April 13, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Altgeld, room 315. These citizens were interviewed by NIU Oral History students and their audio recordings will be donated to the Regional Archives.

4. David Kyvig, Distinguished Research Professor, NIU Department of History, will present a lecture entitled Documenting the Depression: The Farm Security Administration as the Nation’s Lens, Wednesday, April 14, 7:15 – 8:15 Altgeld room 315.

5. Elizabeth Seaton, Eli Associate Curator, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University Manhattan will present a lecture: New Deal Print Exhibitions: A Historical and Critical Perspective. Wednesday, April 21, 5 pm, Art Museum
6. Two large-scale posters about the Gustaf Dahlstrom WPA mural located at the DeKalb Public Library will be on display in the museum in April and May. Funded by a grant from the DeKalb County Community Foundation, these posters will be made available, following our exhibitions, for short term loans to local schools and accompanied by an optional power-point presentation given by Museum Staff on the WPA and FAP Mural projects movement.

7. Printmaking Workshop and tour for ages 10-13. Led by Museum Studies students, Saturday, April 24, 1-3 p.m., pre-registration is required.

8. “If FSA Today” is a Teen Documentary Photography Workshop that will be conducted by Wade Duerkes of NIU Media Services and will produce photographs for an exhibition at the NIU Art Museum that will run May 2 – May 28. Students from each of the DeKalb County High Schools, and home school representatives, will apply to be selected to participate in this intensive two day workshop documenting current economy and lifestyles of the urban and rural scene in DeKalb County.

9. Public Reception for If FSA Today, Sunday, May 2, 3 – 4 p.m.

10. Thursday, April 29, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m., Film and discussion led by NIU English and Theatre faculty of “Cradle Will Rock” at the Egyptian Theatre, 135 N. Second Street, DeKalb. The movie examines the relationship between art and politics in America in the 1930s. NIU Professors Scott Balcerzak, Tim Ryan, and Robert Schneider will lead the discussion. Co-sponsored by the Art Museum and the University Honors Program at NIU this program is free for NIU Students with I.D.; $5 general admission, $4 for students/seniors 65+. The film is rated “R.” Doors open at 6:30

11. Friday May 14, 8:30 – 6, NIU Art Museum Get-On-The-Bus trip to view WPA murals in Chicago. Stops include: Lane Tech School with 68 murals and private tours of murals restored by the Chicago Conservation Center led by Heather Becker. Ms. Becker is CEO of the Chicago Conservation Center and coordinated the largest project of WPA/FAP mural restorations in the country. Charges apply, contact the museum for details.

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 programs are free unless otherwise noted; 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. Support for the New Deal Era projects has also come from 3M Foundation, the DeKalb County Community Foundation, John and Nancy Castle, Veolia Transportation, Panera Bread, the NIU School of Art Visiting Artist and Scholar Fund, the University Honors Program, and the Illinois Humanities Council.

For more information please visit our website: www.niu.edu/artmuseum or call 815.753.1936.