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For Immediate Release

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The Northern Illinois University Art Museum presents Vice + Virtue, an exhibition curated by NIU Art Museum Assistant Director, Peter Olson, exploring the dynamics of the “deadly sins” and “heavenly virtues” with juxtaposed interpretations from a vast array of visual artists. This exhibition will be held in all four galleries of the NIU Art Museum from January 8th – February 23rd 2013, with a public reception on January 24th from 4:30pm – 6:00pm.

This exhibition examines the concepts of virtue and vice as they have been depicted throughout the evolution of visual culture. Showcasing artwork from over forty-five artists, Vice + Virtue will present an eclectic mix spanning highly-detailed engravings from old-master printmakers to lusciously-vivid compositions by contemporary painters. A selection of folk art will also be included, along with an assortment of pop culture memorabilia. From the gravely-earnest to the playfully-witty, Vice + Virtue delivers a thought-provoking overview of innocence and sin, including ambiguous areas of overlap or intersection.

For example, light-hearted interpretations of vice can be found in both the work of contemporary artist, Phyllis Bramson and 18th century printmaker, William Hogarth. In her painting “Paramours and Mischief (In the Afternoon)” Bramson lures viewers into a whimsical fantasyland of decadence and lust with her candy-colored palette and acrobatic cast of characters—hardly a dour look at the perils of “sin”. This impish take on vice can also be found centuries earlier in William Hogarth’s engraving “The Sleeping Congregation”. Hogarth’s church scene depicts parishioners reluctantly going through the motions of worship as they snore their way through the sermon of a disapproving minister. The resulting scene is wickedly satirical—an expertly-drafted punch line delivered by one of England’s greatest old masters.

A complete list of exhibiting artists includes: Anonymous, John Balsley, David Becker, George Bellows, Stan Brakhage, Phyllis Bramson, Nick Bubash, Jacques Callot, Marc Chagall, Sue Coe, Joe Coleman, Warrington Colescott, April Dauscha, Paul Delvaux, Otto Dix, David Driesbach, Fritz Eichenberg, Beulah Round Elving, James Ensor, Howard Finster, Nicole Gordon, Hendrik Goudt, William Hogarth, Eric Holubow, Tom Huck, John Jansson, Indira Johnson, George Klauba, Diane Levesque, Barbara Madsen, Jacob Matham (after Albrecht Dürer), Stephen Metz, R.A. Miller, Michael Noland, Earnest Patton, Elijah Pierce, Prophet Blackmon, Herb Ritts, Aegidius Sadeler II (after Albrecht Dürer), Fred Stonehouse, Bruno Surdo, Terri Thomas, Andy Warhol, Hieronymous Wierix (after Albrecht Dürer), and Barry Wilson

Programming for Vice + Virtue will be occurring throughout the course of the exhibition. For more information please visit: http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum/calendar/index.shtml.

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. This exhibition is recommended for mature audiences only. More information 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.

Larger, print quality jpegs are available upon request.

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**Artist:** Warrington Colescott  
**Title:** The Last Judgment  
(1979)  
Intaglio  
18” x 24”  
From the NIU Art Museum  
Permanent Collection

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**Artist:** Aegidius Sadeler II (after Albrecht Dürer)  
**Title:** Virgin and Child with a Multitude of Animals  
(c.1597)  
Engraving  
13.25” x 9.75”  
Courtesy of the Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University