Director’s Note

Cooler nights, happier dog. Have to get some new school shoes. The NIU Campus and city of DeKalb are getting all gussied up with last minute construction projects before the students return. Sometimes we gritch about budgets and frozen fixtures but that opportunity for a new beginning every fall as the new school year begins never fails to energize and excite. Just toured the recently reopened Stevens Building and saw the new facilities for NIU’s Anthropology Department and the School of Theatre and Dance. Many opportunities to say “wow!” It is going to be a good year.

This 2018-2019 season, the NIU Art Museum is pleased to be part of the year-long celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Jack Arends Hall and the Museum staff members have thoroughly enjoyed the exchanges we have had online and in person in touching base and reconnecting with alumni and former faculty of the NIU School of Art and Design in preparation for our exhibitions. We are looking forward to seeing everyone for the gallery receptions in the School and in the Museum on September 20.

In response to NIU’s Program Prioritization process of a few years ago, the themes for our winter and spring shows emerged. This winter, we will explore transparency, a concept we hear a lot about but rarely see (sorry, couldn’t resist!). The Museum’s call for entries for “Transparency in Form and Content” resulted in almost seventy entries that the Exhibition Advisory Committee will soon be reviewing. This being the year of our rotation with the Center for Burma Studies, its director, Catherine Raymond, will treat us to an in-depth exploration of reverse glass painting from Myanmar, and at an international symposium to be hosted on campus, similar traditions throughout Southeast Asia. Come spring, we will attempt to take on DATA, the impact, insights from, and interpretation of the big, driven, visualized data in our lives. Continued page 2.
Current and Upcoming Exhibitions

SWEET, Golden and Delicious...
“Faculty-select and Museum-certified” NIU Studio and Design Alumni Artists
August 28 - October 19, 2018
South, Rotunda, and Hall Case Galleries, NIU Art Museum

An invitational exhibition of studio and design alumni artists recommended by current and former faculty, SWEET, Golden and Delicious... presents recent work by six dozen artists from five decades representing eleven areas of visual study. Artists needed to be actively practicing and showing their work. Works on view represent a variety of approaches to photography, sculpture, fiber, jewelry and metalwork, printmaking, illustration, ceramics, painting, drawing, graphic design, and time arts. In addition, there is a sound piece, and video documentation of an artist creating a lithograph, and of a large public art piece being made.

This exhibition is part of a larger School of Art and Design celebration of alumni as guest artists, scholars and educators.

Imagery and Icons:
Former Tenure and Tenure-track Faculty exhibition
September 18 - October 19, 2018
North Gallery, NIU Art Museum

As part of the alumni exhibitions and anniversary celebrations this exhibition showcases work from former faculty in an intimate, salon style exhibition.

Transparency Exhibition Suite
November 15 - February 15, 2019 (closed university holidays)

Transparency in Form and Content
Examines the spectrum of interpretation of the word “transparency”; from the literal to the figurative. Artists who explore both the visual phenomenon of transparency and the concept of “transparency” in content, be that process, funding, idea or material.

Vanishing Art from Myanmar: The Buddhist Reverse Glass Painting Tradition
Explores the complex Buddhist tradition as it is revealed through the work of some artists from the last village in Burma dedicated to the reverse glass painting technique and tradition known since the art form’s introduction to the region in the 18th century.

Curated by Dr. Catherine Raymond, Director, Center for Burma Studies and Professor of Art History and presented in conjunction with the International Symposium, “Looking Through The Glass: The Asian Reverse Glass Painting Traditions” on November 16, 2018. Raymond’s research was funded by a Rakow Grant from the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY.

Data: BIG/-driven/Visualized...
March 28 - May 17, 2019

This exhibition delves into the array of manner in which data surrounds us, impacts us and is interpreted. BIG/-driven/Visualized... explores the data in our lives.

Guest Curator: Richard Siegesmund is Professor of Art+Design Education in the School of Art and Design at Northern Illinois University. He has an interest in both quantitative and qualitative research, and the design of data reports that promote thoughtful public reflection and discussion.

This exhibition is sponsored in part by Northern Public Radio.
Staff Announcements

The Art Museum welcomes two new Graduate Assistants this fall, Zachary Bath and Christina (Chris) Kang. They started in early August training with Curator and Assistant Director Pete Olson installing the Sweet, Golden and Delicious exhibition before classes started.

Zach Bath (above left) is a second year graduate student at NIU pursuing an MFA in Printmaking. Bath was born and raised in Rock Springs, Wyoming and received a BA in Studio Art from the University of Wyoming in 2017. His work consists of large scale woodcut prints and lithographs done primarily in black and white with an expressionistic and medieval aesthetic.

Christina (Chris) Kang (above right) was born and raised in Morgantown, West Virginia and graduated from West Virginia University with a BFA in Printmaking. Christina will be a first-year printmaking MFA candidate at NIU this Fall. She has previous gallery experience as an intern at Pittsburgh’s Artists Image Resource, a nonprofit printshop. When she isn’t in the studio, Christina enjoys reading sci-fi novels, cooking, and hiking.

Peter Olson recently juried the 35th Annual Sugar Creek Arts Festival in Uptown Normal, Illinois along with fellow juror Alfonso Gosálbez Berenguer, a local artist and teacher. Peter’s own work was recently selected for the Golden: School of Art and Design Jack Arends Hall 50th Anniversary Juried Alumni Show opening September 4. You can see his work on view there through October 19, 2018.

Collection Spotlight

Continued from page 8.

Although this piece comes with instructions for a pre-made image, the goal was for an individual to produce their own image by removing and replacing each piece to their liking. He viewed shapes and color as its own alphabet and saw these as their own language. The range of imagery made from this piece is unlimited, leaving room for constant play and curiosity.

Victor Vasarely was born in Hungary in 1906 and is considered to be one of the founders and leaders of the Op-Art movement in Europe that explored non-objective images which created optical illusions, vibrating patterns, and the impression of movement. His original career plans were to become a doctor in medicine, but instead decided to pursue a career in art, first studying academic painting at Podolini-Volkmann Academy in 1927. Later, Vasarely studied in Budapest at Műhely, literally, “Workshop,” that taught applied arts in the style of the German Bauhaus.

Vasarely is well known for his optical illusions and formalistic play on color and shapes. His works focused on the elements of design, using flat two-dimensional shapes and colors that exclude a sense of depth, space, and scale. See image page 8.

-Zeinab Saab, former Museum Graduate Assistant, NIU M.F.A. printmaking.
Public Receptions
Thursday, September 20
5 – 8 p.m., NIU Art Museum

School of Art and Design Reception
5 – 8 p.m., Jack Olson Gallery, Jack Arends Hall

School of Art and Design 50th Anniversary
All Alumni Open Exhibit and Mail Art Show
August 24 - October 19, 2018
An open exhibition of two and three-dimensional work that fit and shipped in a USPS Flat Rate Priority mailer on view in the Annette and Jerry Johns Student Art Gallery. Artist had the option to contribute work for a future auction to raise funds for School of Art and Design scholarships.

Golden: School of Art and Design Juried Alumni Show
September 4 - October 19, 2018
Dan Silverstein, Associate Director of Collections and Exhibitions Management at the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University in Evanston served as juror for the exhibition. Silverstein is a 1992 NIU BFA alumnus. Awards include the invitation to exhibit work in an alumni group show at the Jack Olson Gallery in 2019 and two solo shows at the Olson Gallery in 2020.

Alumni Salon
September 27 - October 19, 2018
An option-in exhibition of works not included in the juried show on display in the halls cases on the second floor of Jack Arends Hall/Visual Arts Building.

Events Open to the Public
Wednesday, September 26
Visiting Artist Public Lecture with Christian Ortiz
Ortiz received his BFA in fiber studies and his BSED in art education from Northern Illinois University, and his MFA in fiber and material studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. As an educator, Ortiz works as Senior Manager of Studio Programs at Marwen, a non-profit that provides free arts education to Chicago students in under resourced neighborhoods. 5 p.m., AB100 Jack Arends Hall/Visual Arts Building

Only have a few minutes to spare?
Drop-in and join us for a quick talk!
Be in the galleries during selected times to hear a two to five-minute Flash Tour with Museum staff as they give insider explanations into a single work on view. Look for the logo label in the galleries at these Flash Tour times starting September 4:
Tuesday 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday 3:30 p.m.
Thursday 12:30 p.m.
Thursday 5:15 p.m.*
*Except during other scheduled Museum events.

For questions or more information on the events at the NIU Art Museum please phone 815-753-1936 or email the Education Coordinator at shenn1@niu.edu.

Elizabeth Allen
Visiting Scholars in Art History
Alumni Speakers
Monday, September 17
“A Cultural Capital Quagmire: How the Art Market and not Curators or Art Critics legitimize cultural products today” Elaine King, Professor Emerita, College of Fine Arts, School of Art, Carnegie Mellon University

Wednesday, October 17
“Defining Sacred Spaces: Sculpture in the Romanesque Church” Thomas Russo, Associate Dean, International Programs; Professor, Art History, Drury University

Tuesday, November 20, 2018
“Image as Information: Materialising the Buddha in late Burmese art” Alexandra Green, Henry Ginsburg Curator for Southeast Asia, British Museum

Monday, February 4, 2019
“All Eyes on Space: An Architectural History of Television” Samuel Dodd, Visiting Assistant Professor, Ohio University

Wednesday, February 27, 2019
“Serious Change: Toward A More Meaningful Diversified Artworld” Freida High W. Testagiorgis, Evjue-Bascom Professor Emerita of African and African American Art History and Visual Culture, University of Wisconsin Madison

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
“Xena Warrior Princess Meets Efraín Ríos Montt: Contemporary Maya Dance and Pop Culture Imagery in Highland Guatemala” Rhonda Taube, Professor and Chair, Department of Art and Art History, Riverside City College

All lectures 5 p.m., Auditorium 100, Jack Arends Hall/Visual Arts Building.

Visiting Arts Educator
Alumni Workshops Series featuring
Gerry James, Matt Etherington, Deyana Matt, Rick Stachon, Don Dvorak, and Teresa McGee

At the time of print still to be scheduled.
Sunday, September 30
Gilded Age Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago’s John Singer Sargent and the Driehaus’ Portraits of an Era.

Take a step back in time to Chicago’s Gilded Age of opulence and luxury. View the AIC’s exhibition John Singer Sargent and Chicago’s Gilded Age that presents his lush and striking portraits that illuminates his connection to Chicago and the city’s vibrant art scene. Also enjoy a walking tour of McCormickville’s mansions as Sally Kalmbach recounts the lives of prominent families and notable public figures that called the area home. Finally, visit the Driehaus Museum’s Gilded Chicago: Portraits of an Era of wealthy socialites and prominent Chicagoans as they sought to highlight their social standing and affluence through these lavish commissions. **Group size limited to 15 participants!**

**RSVP by 09/11.** Departure 9:00 a.m. Expected Return 7:30 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $55; Non-Member St/Sr $60; Non-Member Adult $65. Ticket price includes transportation, tour and Driehaus admission. Meals and incidentals not included. AIC Admission on your own (AIC Members free; IL residents $22 Adults; $16 St/Sr.; EAM admission free first Friday of the month). Meals and incidentals not included.

Tuesday, October 2
I was Raised on the Internet at the MCA

Raised on the Internet focuses on how the internet changed the way we experience the world and the shifts that have occurred since the millennium. The exhibition acknowledges a post-internet world of art making and the complexity of the online multiverse perceived as both dystopic and utopic simultaneously. This excursion visits the MCA show leading up to our own exhibition on data that delves into the array and manner in which data surrounds us, impacts us and is interpreted by visual artists. While in Chicago visit the River North and West Loop gallery districts to visit several of the galleries at your own pace with time for dinner in River North’s or Water Tower’s restaurants. **RSVP by 09/25.** Departure 12:30 p.m. Expected Return 10 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $25; Non-Member St/Sr $30; Non-Member Adults $35. Ticket price includes transportation. MCA admission free Tuesday for IL residents. Meals and incidentals not included.

Saturday, November 3
SOFA Expo and Create Your Own Functional Art

Join us for a day at the Sculpture Objects and Functional Art and Design Fair—the premier gallery-presented art fair dedicated to three-dimensional art and design—at Navy Pier, Chicago. SOFA presents artwork that crosses the boundaries of fine art, decorative art, and design. Afterward, create your own functional art at Ed Hoy’s, an art glass supplier and studio in Warrenville. You can create four colorful fused, slumped glass dishes in a private beginner level class or pair with a friend to split the cost and take home two dishes! Dishes will be kiln fired after class and ready for pick up at the Art Museum when finished. **Please allow two to three weeks.** **Group size limited to 15 participants!**

**RSVP by 10/29.** Departure 9:30 a.m. Expected Return 7 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $25; Non-Member St/Sr $30; Non-Member Adult $35. Ticket price includes transportation. SOFA admission on your own (Adults $25; Sr/St. with ID $15). Ed Hoy class $65 or partner with a friend to split the cost. Meals and incidentals not included.

Friday, December 7
The Chicago Imagists: Hairy Who?

Explore this unique moment in Chicago’s art scene and discover the self-defined group of artists that included Jim Falconer, Art Green, Gladys Nilsson, Jim Nutt, Suellen Rocca, and Karl Wirsum. Visit the Art Institute of Chicago’s exhibition Hairy Who: 1966-1969 that explores the group’s bold, graphic work and history of their exhibitions at the Hyde Park Art Center. Also visit the Elmhurst Art Museum’s exhibition of Imagists work on loan from the Elmhurst College Art Collection curated by Suellen Rocca with a special private introduction and overview from the distinguished artist herself. Since 2006, Rocca has served as the Curator and Director of Exhibitions overseeing the Imagist collection at the College and has championed its importance. **RSVP by 11/30.** Departure 9 a.m. Expected Return 6 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $25; Non-Member St/Sr $30; Non-Member Adult $35. Ticket price includes transportation. AIC Admission on your own (AIC Members free; IL residents $22 Adults; $16 St/Sr.; EAM admission free first Friday of the month). Meals and incidentals not included.

The NIU Art Museum’s Get-On-The-Bus trips should not be missed!

Phone 815-753-1936. Payment may be made with cash, check made out to NIU, or major credit card over the phone.
Our Volunteers
The Museum would like to extend a special thanks to the following volunteers and individuals for their continued support. Special thanks to: Robert Banke for collection documentation photography and installation assistance; Gary Burchett for mailing assistance and technology advice; Dan Grych, DeKalb Art Gallery online and the Art Box, for assistance contacting former faculty for the Imagery and Icons exhibition; and Terri Smialek for overnight excursion research and serving as gallery attendant.

Support
The exhibitions and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; the Friends of the NIU Art Museum; and the College of Visual and Performing Arts’ Season Presenting Sponsor Shaw Media.

Exhibitions
Artwork and objects for the SWEET, Golden and Delicious and Imagery and Icons exhibitions are on loan from the individual artists and their families; The Art Box, DeKalb; private collectors; and the NIU Art Museum Collection.

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Thank you for your generous commitments!

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Individual $25 / Dual $45 (2 people, one address) / Student $10 / Senior $15 / Dual Senior $25 (2 seniors, one address)

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Check enclosed payable to NIU Art Museum for $ ____________.
Please charge:  Visa  Mastercard  Discover  Amer Exp     Expiration ________________
Account number_________________________________________

I am interested in volunteering for:
Baking/Receptions    Housing artists/scholars overnight    Gallery Attendant/Information Desk    Researching Get-On-The-Bus Trips    Other_________________
Serving on an Advisory Panels: (Area of Interest:  Events    Fundraiser    Education/Outreach    Exhibitions    Collections)
Planetary Folklore Participations No. 1
Victor Vasarely (Hungarian-French b.1906 d.1997)

Victor Vasarely’s Planetary Folklore Participations No. 1 is a color optics puzzle made of plastic and metal designed in 1969. Vasarely produced this piece in an edition of 3,000 believing that everyone should have the ability to enjoy this “game”.

continued page 3.


Serving Campus and Community by Balancing Traditional and Contemporary Art to Explore the Connections Made through Visual Culture.

The NIU Art Museum First Floor, West End of Altgeld Hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Castle Drives on the main campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL.

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Public Reception

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Faculty and Alumni: Imagery and Icons

niu.edu/artmuseum