Director's Notes

Dear Friends:

To those of you who lost loved ones during the past year and a half please accept our deep felt sympathy. To those of you who lost jobs or businesses, our condolences. To those of you who have suffered from fear and angst or from injustice, our well wishes to you for a better and more fair tomorrow. We welcome you to come and explore the new exhibitions on display at the NIU Art Museum. Examining artwork and witnessing the creative spirit can be transformative, thought-provoking and healing.

This fall, the NIU Art Museum is partnering with the Center for Burma Studies on exhibitions dealing with refugees. The CBS will present *The Art of Surviving: The Journey of Burmese Karen Refugees in Illinois*—a project developed out of student research completing oral histories with Karen recorded in Burma, Thailand and in Aurora, Illinois. In conjunction with this, the Museum solicited contemporary artwork for *Refuge and Refugee* from a national call for entry. Both exhibits highlight the traumatic migrations people have been forced to take in search of a better life or of survival at all. Both also look at the successful settlement into new lands and hopeful new beginnings on life. Continued page 2.

Current Exhibitions
through November 12, 2021

*The Art of Surviving: The Journey of the Karen Refugees in Illinois*

*Refuge and Refugee*
Director’s Notes continued.

This winter, we are pleased to feature new artwork and research from the Faculty of the NIU School of Art and Design. We will also hold a small exhibition of artwork made available to purchase through silent auction to raise funds for the Museum to be able to purchase artwork from BIPOC and AAPI artists in order to increase the diversity of artists represented in our permanent collection.

Next spring, we will again be working with the CBS (our rotation schedule was seriously altered by the COVID-19 closures) on exhibitions that explore various perspectives on collecting. *American in Burma* will feature items from the Burma Art Collection at NIU displayed through the lens of who collected what. The decorative functional ethnic items that missionaries tended to select versus the gilded Buddhist statues that ambassadors were gifted presents a very different view of Burma – not necessarily what a native Burmese person would think of as typical Burmese art. Along with this, the Museum will host an exhibition of local art and artifact collections borrowed from members of the campus and the community. Please note: we are open to being approached by volunteers who wish to share samplings from their art collections for public viewing at the Museum during this display. Kindly let curator Peter Olson know if you think you might be interested.

Not sure if things will again be “normal” but they certainly have to be better than this past year or so has been. We are looking forward to the opportunity to see you in the galleries.

Jo Burke, Peter Olson, Stuart Henn

---

Current Exhibitions

**The Art of Surviving: The Journey of the Karen Refugees in Illinois**
South Gallery

This exhibition is based on work done by NIU PhD and MA students who either lived within the refugee camps along the Burma-Thai border or who worked with Illinois Karen Refugee communities for the last 15 years. The exhibit looks at life in Burma, life in the refugee camp and life in the United States. The Karen, an ethnic group in southern Burma/Myanmar, has been in conflict with the government since 1949 first calling for an independent state and now representation in national government. During the decades-long conflict and violent military persecution many Karen escaped to refugee camps and/or resettled to a third country. The exhibition ties the minority Karen refugee experience to a global perspective, engaging visitors in a critical dialogue on forced migration and displacement and what visitors can do to advocate for local refugee communities.

**Refuge and Refugee**
Rotunda and North Gallery

The work of ten artists including one from the Museum’s permanent collection are presented in an examination of the global humanitarian crises as displaced persons forced to flee their native countries attempt to find refuge elsewhere. The artists, moved by current events and news reports, express their shock, horror, and critique of government polices as well as compassion for those impacted by these measures. Several of the artists with immigrant backgrounds relate their own struggles with identity to the inner struggle of missing home and attempting to adapt to a new land. Artists were selected from a national call for entry by the exhibition advisory committee and include: Luciana Abait, Karen Albanese Campbell, Yolanda del Amo, Tere Garcia, Judith Joseph, Rebecca Keller, Eddy A. López, Stephen Walt and Kathy Weaver.
**Museum News**

**Staff Announcements**

We congratulate Education and Marketing Coordinator Stuart Henn who is leaving to take a full-time position at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. We thank Stuart for his six and a half years at the Art Museum.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Visitor Updates**

Thank you for your patience during the ever changing COVID-19 situation. The health and safety of our students, staff and visitors remain a priority as we take steps to follow the latest recommendations of university, local, state, and federal agencies to reduce the chances of transmission on our campus and in our community. If you or someone in your household is feeling unwell, please consider a visit to the Art Museum at a future date.

The Art Museum will follow the latest recommendations from university, local, state and federal guidance. Please review our current directions for visitors before planning your visit [niu.edu/artmuseum/about/visit.shtml](http://niu.edu/artmuseum/about/visit.shtml).

Programming and gallery hours are subject to changes, additions or cancelations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Visitors are welcome on campus, but we ask that you take the same precautions we ask our students, faculty and staff to protect yourself and others. Current practice is for all persons over two to be masked indoors.

**Virtual Live-streamed Events**

One thing we learned during COVID-19 was the value of increased accessibility by live streaming our public presentations and then hosting recordings of them on YouTube. Virtual programming proved its worth when we would have normally canceled a live evening event because of heavy snow. You can find many of the programs from 2020-2021 on our website [niu.edu/artmuseum/events](http://niu.edu/artmuseum/events) we did not record some programs due to copyright issues. We plan to live-stream and record several of our upcoming programs including ones that take place in a hybrid fashion.

**Recent Gift from former President La Tourette**

The Art Museum recently received two works of art by former School of Art faculty member Jack Olson. A familiar name perhaps to many because of the eponymous art building gallery named for him or the endowed scholarship established after his death in 1995. Jack Olson’s memory remains prominent on campus. The addition to the collection is a welcome one from past university President John La Tourette, who served from 1986 to 2000. La Tourette recently gifted Diana, a large acrylic on canvas and Mosaic, a smaller acrylic on paper from his personal collection to the Art Museum.

Diana and Mosaic reflect Olson’s continued interest and use of figural subjects that were often associated with ancient mythologies. Diana is here a reference to fabled Roman goddess of the hunt and wild animals. The works drew inspiration from ancient Hellenistic and later Roman tile mosaics found throughout excavations of private dwellings and villas as well as monolithic sculpture not as literal narratives, but rather a fusion of source images. The way in which Olson applied the acrylic to the canvas in regular squares, the flattened depth of the figures, the references to classical Greek marble statues and his use of muted tones in Diana imitate the feeling of ancient mosaics. Yet, the central left figure’s vibrant floral patterned dress is evocative of the contemporary floral-print dresses of the 1970s and 80s. The figure in Mosaic contorts in a decidedly un-contrapposto pose but the references to tiled mosaics remains present in the work. Perhaps the figure holds a rose and is Chloris, and Olson references the goddess of flowers and springtime. This body of work culminated in a show at Zaks Gallery in Chicago in 1988.

Continued page 8.
Cultural Vibrance in Myanmar: Political Crisis, Social Resilience and Conference, 14th International Burma Studies

Friday, September 10 – Virtual Event
Albany Park: The Generational Impact of Refugees and Migrant Communities
Chicago’s Albany Park, home to various refugee and migrant groups throughout its long history, has been shaped by the achievements and contributions of the many groups who called it home. Saidouri Zomaya, MA candidate in Anthropology at NIU, will discuss the impact of generations of refugees and migrants who have left a lasting mark on this community, ranging from the hospital and university to the various community centers that serve families from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

5 – 6 p.m. CDT; Zoom live-stream

Saturday, September 11 – Virtual Event
BurmaVision 2021: Political Crisis, Social Resilience and Cultural Vibrance in Myanmar.
burmaVISION2021.com

Thursday, September 23 – Hybrid Event
New Humanitarianism: Wars, State-Building, and Globalism
NIU Department of Sociology Professor Abu Bah addresses issues of security, human rights, and democracy in the context of wars and terrorism through a global and regional lens. What are the interconnections between state security and human security? How do countries and world powers respond to security challenges and the responsibility to protect vulnerable populations?

5 – 6 p.m. CDT; In-person with limited seating; Altgeld Hall 125; Zoom live-stream

Wednesday, September 29 – Virtual Event
Representing Refugee Experience: What’s at Stake
Panel discussion with artists Yolanda del Amo and Eddie A. López. Heide Fehrenbach, Board of Trustees Professor, NIU History Department moderates a discussion with artist and professor Yolanda del Amo (Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ) and artist and professor Eddy A. López (Bucknell University Lewisburg, PA) regarding refugee identity and image.

5 – 6 p.m. CDT; Zoom live-stream

Thursday, September 30 – Hybrid Event
Living in Confinement
Keynote speakers facilitated by Karla Findley, NIU MA Anthropology, with members of the Burmese Karen refugee community of Aurora who will share their experiences of living in refugee camps before coming to the U.S.

5 – 6 p.m. CDT; In-person with limited seating; Altgeld Hall 125; Zoom live-stream

Thursday, October 7 – Hybrid Event
The Declining Situation of Refugees in the World
Laura Heideman, Associate Professor, NIU Departments of Sociology and Nonprofit and NGO Studies will consider the current refugee situation in the world today: what it means to be a refugee; who cares for (or fails to care for) refugees; and why the situation in the past few years has been particularly uncertain.

5 – 6 p.m. CDT; In-person with limited seating; Altgeld Hall 125; Zoom live-stream

Thursday, October 14 – Hybrid Event
Land of Hope, Living Together in the U.S.
Discussion with Karla Findley, NIU MA Anthropology 2017, and other stakeholders of the Aurora community who have welcomed refugees to successful relocation in this northern Illinois town.

5 – 6 p.m. CDT; In-person with limited seating; Altgeld Hall 125; Zoom live-stream

Thursday, October 28 – Hybrid Event
Huskie Refugees at NIU
Lay Mu (BA in Nursing School), Pay Say (BA in accounting), and Sue Dar (BA in human resources) will share their experience as the young adult children of Karen refugees, as Asian Americans and as NIU students providing insight and perspective of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) experience today as NIU and DeKalb continue to grow as a diverse community of belonging.

5 – 6 p.m. CDT; In-person with limited seating; Altgeld Hall 125; Zoom live-stream

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change, addition and weather cancelation. Please phone 815-753-1936 or visit online for Zoom Virtual live-streaming details. niu.edu/artmuseum/events
Members-Only “Hop in the Van” Excursions
Limited number of participants. Short excursions for vaccinated individuals. We will still be masked and may keep the windows open. But, oh how nice to get on the road again!

Wednesday, September 8
Sandwich Fair
Barb City 10,000 Strong Sketch Club Rides Again! Sketch and Photo Excursion to the longest running county fair in Illinois. **RSVP by September 6.** Departure 2 p.m. Expected Return 9 p.m. Price: Members $10. Ticket price includes transportation. Meals, incidentals, and $10 admission to fair not included.

Wednesday, September 15
Rockford Art Museum
Curator’s Tour of Permanent Collection show Technicolor Constellations: Tales from the Permanent Collection at Rockford Art Museum led by Executive Director/Curator Carrie Johnson. **RSVP by September 13.** Departure 2 p.m. Expected Return 6:30 p.m. Price: Members $30; Ticket price includes transportation and tour. Meals and incidentals not included.

Thursday, October 7
Dillon Home, Sterling, Illinois
Tour of the original furnishings and objets d’art of the Dillon Home Museum, an 1858 Italianate home of P.W. Dillon, the president of Northwestern Steel and Wire, who lived in the house until his 97th year. Another chapter in barb wire history. **RSVP by October 5.** Departure 8:45 a.m. Expected Return 2 p.m. Price: Members $20. Ticket price includes transportation and tour. Meals and incidentals not included.

Saturday, October 16
Wisconsin Studio Fall Art Tour
Open studios with artists selling and doing demonstrations. This will be a small group so we can come and go as we please. Studios and galleries in Mineral Point, Spring Green and Dodgeville all open for annual event. Should be a beautiful time of year for a drive through southwest Wisconsin. **RSVP by October 14.** Departure 8:45 a.m. Expected Return 8:45 p.m. Price: Members $40 Ticket price includes transportation. Meals and incidentals not included.

Date and Cost TBD but let us know if you are interested:
Beloit International Film Fest between Friday, February 25 and Sunday, March 6, 2022. Schedule TBA; visit Beloit College campus art and anthropology museums and attend 1-2 films or lectures. Visit: [Beloitfilmfest.org](http://Beloitfilmfest.org)

Get-on-the-Bus Overnight Excursions
Despite getting permission to require vaccines for our bus excursions, our overnight bus trips will remain on hiatus as breakthrough infections and hotspots continue to make the news. When we do finally get to go back on the road please be aware that for most trips our buses will need to be leased from outside vendors so pricing will be higher than that to which several of our long time trekkers have grown accustomed.
Thank You!

We would like to express our gratitude to the NIU School of Art and Design Faculty who graciously allowed us to keep their artwork up for an extended period following the campus COVID-19 closure in March 2020. At the time, none of us were quite certain how to approach dismantling a show safely. We appreciated being able to keep their work up in the gallery so that when we finally did slowly get to reopen (masked, by appointment, in limited numbers) in the fall of 2020, we had a show to share. We are looking forward to this coming winter’s Faculty exhibition and seeing what new projects they worked on during the pandemic shutdown.

We wish to give special thanks to longtime members and friends of the NIU Art Museum, Jerry and Annette Johns, for so generously thinking of us and planning ahead for our sustainability into the future. The Johns have started an endowed fund for us, The Friends of the NIU Art Museum Endowment Fund, at the DeKalb County Community Foundation. Others are welcome to contribute to this growing account as well.

Welcome to new Exhibition Advisory Committee Members, Jessica Cima and Anne Edwards. Jessica works in the office of Research, Innovation and Partnerships at NIU and has an academic background in museology. Dr. Edwards is the Program Director for the Center for Black Studies at NIU and is an avid supporter of the arts. We wish to thank Destiny McDonald, Program Coordinator for the Office of Student Engagement for her service on the committee and congratulate her on her new role as a mother.

Volunteers

The Museum would like to extend a special thanks to the following volunteers and individuals for their continued support. Our thanks go to Robert Banke for continuing to provide excellent professional photographs to document our exhibitions and collection and to Gary Burchett for technical research and mailing support.

Support

The exhibitions and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts; the Friends of the NIU Art Museum; and the College of Visual and Performing Arts Season Presenting Sponsor Shaw Media.

Exhibition Support

Artwork for Refuge and Refugee is on loan from the exhibiting artists and selected from the NIU Art Museum permanent collection. The Art of Surviving: The Journey of the Karen Refugees in Illinois, organized by the Center for Burma Studies at NIU, was made possible through financial support provided by a Henry Luce Foundation grant and includes artifacts from the Burma Art Collection at NIU and on loan from NIU MA 2017 Anthropology alumna Karla Findley and members of the area Karen community.

Members

**Friends**

Joyce Barker
Pat Burke and John VanVranken
Mary and George Cella
Dee and Gary Coover
Herb Deutsch
Jan Devore
Brian and Linda Fulton
Patricia Galvan
David and Linda Groat
Daniel and Nancy Grych
Jitka Hurych
John and Sandy Lyon
Sheila McHugh
Charles and Gretchen Moore
Juliann K. Olsen
Linda Oster
David Parker
Linda T. Peterson
Rich Rice and John Calimee

**Friends continued.**

Michael and Robin Rothamer
Bill and Kathy Scarpaci
Linda L. Schwarz
Ivan and Judith Shils
Barbara Smith
Jerry and Ging Smith
EmmyLou Studier and Charles Larry
Johanna and Philip Vandrey
Sophia Varcados
Mary Von Zellen and James Nertheimer

**Sustaining Members**

**Sponsors**

Rudolf and Ingeborg Bisanz
Deborah and Colin Booth
Peggy Burke and Ed Wieetecha
Susan Carter and Robert Sabin
Kathy DiMonte
Steven A. Johnson
Sandra and Howard Little
Jerry and Miriam Meyer
Nicholas Noe
Peter Olson
Patricia Perkins
Terri Smialek
Marian Swenson
Ruth Anne Tobias
Patricia S. Vary
Lynne Waldeiland
Christine Worley and Peter Hood
Jerrold and Carol Zar

**Patrons**

Michael Barnes and Kryssi Staikidis
Michael and Elaine Bennett
Derryl Block
Jo Burke
Patricia and Stephen Faivre
Norden Gilbert and Ben Thomas
Thom and Carol Ann Kapheim
Carol Luc
Mary B. Olson
Brian Reis and Mary LaClair
Christo Watson

**Benefactors**

Richard & Thecla Cooler
Jerry and Annette Johns
Dr. Anne C. Kaplan
Paul and Katherine Kassel
Richard and Kathleen Katz
Mary Lincoln
Catherine Raymond and Alan Potkin

Thank you for your support.
JOIN

All gifts sustain and grow opportunities for enrichment and engagement that are free and open to all. Take satisfaction knowing your vital commitment supports our exhibitions, programs and the preservation of our permanent collection.

### Membership Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Dual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefactor</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Benefactor</th>
<th>Patron</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Friend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choice of one Friends premium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority registration and discounted activity fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed mailing of exhibition announcements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special members-only previews, receptions, bus trips and special events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% discount on NIU Art Museum catalogues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscription to Museum Notes newsletter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition in Museum Notes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name engraved on Membership Plaque</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private personal tour (options available)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Premiums

**Friend**  Choice of: Travel Mug, Ceramic Mug, or T-shirt*  additional $5 for Student/Senior levels

**Benefactor**  Choice of one Benefactor Collector Print

- Susanne Doremus, *Sea Fall*
- Jay Ryan, *The Squadron on Patrol*

**Patron**  Choice of one Patron Collector Print

- Renie Adams, *Point of View*
- Michael Barnes, *Sideshow*
- David Driesbach, *Opening Night*
- Carl Hayano, *Sushi Trinitron*
- Ben Mahmoud, *Night Garden*

**Sponsor**  Choice of one Sponsor Collector Print

- Sidney Chaet, *Public Servant*
- William Daley, *Untitled*
- David Driesbach, *The Pied Piper*
- Larry Gregory, *Conkles Hollow, Ohio*
- Charlotte Rollman, *Hopkins Park*
- John Pitman Weber, *Distant Soweto*

Subject to print availability.

### Membership

YES!  I want to  □ Join  □ Renew at the indicated level below:  Students and Seniors please enclose copy of current I.D.

- □ Benefactor  $500
- □ Patron  $250
- □ Sponsor  $100
- Friend  select one
  - □ Individual $25
  - □ Dual $45 (2 members one household)
  - □ Senior $15
  - □ Dual Senior $25
  - □ Student $10

I would like to help with an additional donation of $ ______________.

### Premiums - make checks payable to NIU.

- □ Premium Selection ____________________________
- □ Print Series Selection ____________________________________________________

### Charitable Donation - make checks payable to NIU Foundation.

- □ Please keep my premium. Use my entire gift for exhibitions, programming and collection care by making a charitable donation through the NIU Foundation.

### Payment

- □ Check enclosed  $ ______________.
- □ Please charge:  Visa  Mastercard  Discover  Amer Exp  Expiration ________________
- Account number__________________________________________________________
- Name on card ____________________________________________________________
- Signature________________________________________________________________

### Membership Information

- Name ___________________________________________________________________
- Address ________________________________________________________________
- City __________________________ State _______ ZIP _____________
- Phone __________________________ Mobile _____________________________
- E-mail __________________________________________________________________

### If you are already a current member, please share this form with a friend. Thank you.
8. **Collection Spotlight**

**La Tourette Gift Continued**

Olson’s works are wonderful additions to join other former faculty members’ work in the collection of the Art Museum.

As the art program grew in the late 1960s, Professor Charles J. “Jack” Olson joined the art education faculty in 1968 after leaving his position as director of art for the West Orange Public Schools in New Jersey. A painter, Olson quickly established himself in the Chicago art scene regularly exhibiting in galleries and various venues. His teaching focus also shifted from art education to a studio emphasis in painting winning NIU’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 1990. At this time, he also became part-time director of the School of Art’s Gallery 200—which now carries his name. He retired in 1994.

Dr. La Tourette served as provost upon his arrival in 1979 to the university. Under his leadership as president the university doubled its landholding and began capital improvements totaling $200 million. New buildings erected during his tenure included the Campus Life Building, the Engineering Building, the Campus Child Care Center and Faraday West, which now bears his name. La Tourette retired in May of 2000, and moved to Prescott, Arizona with his wife Lili.

We are grateful for the two additions to the collection.


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

The exhibitions and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts; the Friends of the NIU Art Museum; and the College of Visual and Performing Arts Season Presenting Sponsor Shaw Media.