



Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum

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The support the Museum receives through your financial gifts and your enthusiasm for the Museum allows us to produce award winning exhibitions and programs for the University, DeKalb, and beyond.



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

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Subscribe to the museum's email announcements to stay informed between newsletters.

To sign-up, visit
[niu.edu/artmuseum/about/
contact-us.shtml](http://niu.edu/artmuseum/about/contact-us.shtml)

Confirm your subscription by clicking the link in the confirmation email.

2. Exhibitions

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.

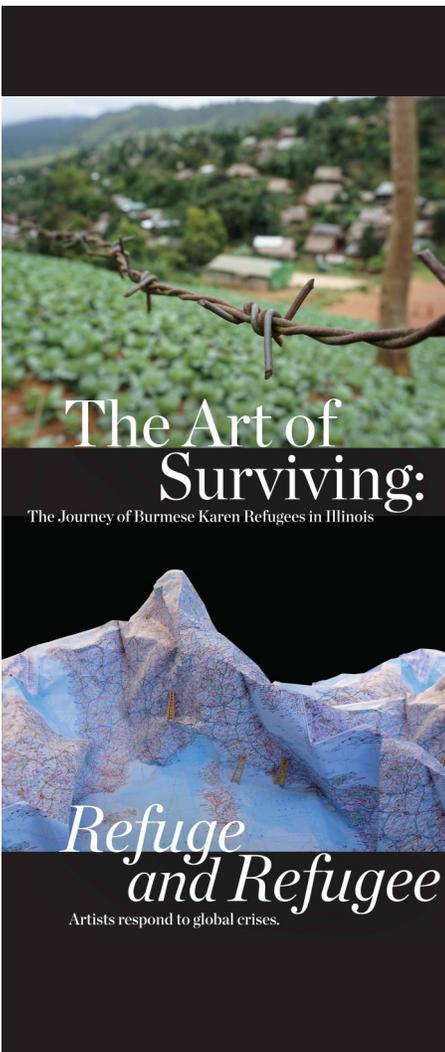
Next spring, we will again be working with the CBS (our rotation schedule was seriously altered by the COVID-19 closures) on exhibitions that explore various

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 policies 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 Staff

Jo Burke, Director
 Peter Olson, Assistant Director
 Stuart Henn, Marketing and Education

Extra Help Preparator

Millicent Kennedy

Museum Assistants

Rory Bis-Markel
 Cory Kirsininkas
 Aye Mya Thida Kyaw
 Danielle Lee
 Olivia Lonteen
 Valeria Mangato
 Grace Sniegowski
 Yamaira Velez

Exhibition Advisory Committee

Michael Bennett
 Mary-Glynn Boies
 Jessica Cima
 Anne Edwards
 Aleksandra Giza
 Nina Rizzo
 Richard Siegesmund
 Peter Van Ael
 Yamaira Janel Velez

Visit niu.edu/artmuseum
 Phone: 815-753-1936
 Email: artmuseum@niu.edu
 E-news: go.niu.edu/artmuseum-eneews

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 Follow us on Twitter
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Parking is available in the [Visitor Pay Lot](#) located at 200 Carroll Avenue. Limited metered and accessible parking spaces are available in front of Lowden Hall with accessible aisles and route to Altgeld Hall. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weeknights in nearby Lots 3 and 14.

To request disability-related accommodations for museum programs, please contact the museum at least one week in advance. Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

CVPA Arts Newsletter

niuarts.com/newsletter-opt-in/

Arts Blog

niuarts.com/

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 takes 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. 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 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.



Thursday, September 2 – Hybrid Event
Curator's Talk: The Making of the Exhibition

Curator Catherine Raymond, Ph.D. NIU

professor of Art History, director of the Center for Burma Studies, and curator of the Burma Art collection will introduce two NIU alumni whose work inspired this exhibit. Thomas Rhoden, Ph.D. Political Science 2017, who lived for five years within the refugee camps along the Thai Burmese border. Karla Findley, MA Anthropology 2017, who has worked with Illinois Karen Refugee communities for the last 15 years. They will share their experience and the process of making this exhibition happen with the participation of the Aurora Karen community.

6 – 7 p.m. CDT; In-person with limited seating; Altgeld Hall 125; Zoom live-stream



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

September 16 - 19
14th International Burma Studies Conference, **Burmavision 2021: Political Crisis, Social Resilience and Cultural Vibrance in Myanmar.**
burmastudiesconference.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

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.

Image: Jeff Koons, *Donkey (Colored)*, 1999, grano lithograph on paper, edition 77/99. Collection of Rockford Art Museum. Gift of Jeff Koons.



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



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.▪



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.

6. Support and Annual Members

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

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John VanVranken
Mary and George Cella
Dee and Gary Coover
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Friends *continued.*

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EmmyLou Studier and
Charles Larry
Johanna and Philip Vandrey
Sophia Varcados
Mary Von Zellen and
James Nerstheimer

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Patrons

Michael Barnes and
Kryssi Staikidis
Michael and Elaine Bennett
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Mary B. Olson
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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

Benefactor \$500

Patron \$250

Sponsor \$100

Friend

Individual \$25 Dual \$45
 Senior \$15 Dual \$25
 Student \$10

Benefits

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



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 Chafetz, *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.

Return this portion to: MEMBERSHIP, NIU Art Museum | Altgeld Hall 116, 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy. | DeKalb, Illinois 60115

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

Senior \$15

Student \$10

Dual \$45 (2 members one household)

Dual Senior \$25

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

E-mail _____

Payment

Check enclosed \$ _____

Please charge: Visa Mastercard Discover Amer Exp Expiration _____

Account number _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

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)

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.

Image page 6: Jack Olson. *Diana*, 1988. Acrylic on canvas, (63.5 x 31 inches). Gift of John and Lilly LaTourette, NIU Art Museum Collection 2020.6.

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.



Gallery Hours
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday
Noon to 6 p.m., Thursday, Friday
Noon to 3 p.m., Saturday
Also by limited appointment for group tours.
Closed university holidays and between
exhibitions.

NIU Art Museum
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