Become a Friend of the NIU Art Museum. Join Today!
Welcome to our newest Members!

**New Members**
Joe and Cyndy Baumgart
Dian M. Poitras

**Renewals**
William and Rivka Baker
Robert Banke
Elizabeth Bass
Michael and Elaine Bennett
Donna Benson
Mary-Glynn and John Boies
Colin and Deborah Booth
Jo Burke
Peggy Burke and Ed Wietecha
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Jerry and Annette Johns
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Patsy Lundberg
Sheila McHugh
Jerry and Miriam Meyer
Charles and Gretchen Moore
Linda Oster
Leila Porter and Sean Farrell
Catherine Raymond and Alan Potkin
Linda Schwarz
Rosemarie Slavenas
Jerry and Ging Smith
Christine Worley and Peter Hood
Jerrold and Carol Zar

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 community, and beyond. Thank you!

**Current Exhibitions**

**BIG/-driven/Visualized...**
Rotunda, North and South Galleries
"Data: BIG/-driven/Visualized..." is a multidimensional exhibition that delves into the array of manner in which data surrounds us, impacts us and is interpreted. From the enormous amount of bytes of information constantly being produced, collected and analyzed; to the notion that decisions are made objectively when based on data; to the nuanced means of making numerical information comprehensible and compelling through graphic and physical representation, BIG/-driven/ Visualized... explores the data in our lives. Continued page 2.

Photo above: Detail of Kalina Winska. Gas Clouds Above and Between Us (Potential Plan of Action, Zone II), 2018. Graphite, acrylic paint, and gesso on wood panel, (36 x 48 in.). Courtesy of the artist.

Graduate Museum Studies student-curated exhibitions Hallcase and Turret Galleries
**Mindful & Aspirational Projection Systems: A Voyage Through Space and Time**
presents mapping data - with a local twist.

**From Beginning to End?** suggests data is the fabric of life and universe from cells and atoms to black holes while asking, “does it last forever?”

**The What and How** didactic panels on the nature of data examining its neutrality and manipulation.
NIU Museum Studies student curators: Larissa Barnat, Brian T. Cory and Nathaniel Pendergraft with instructor Peter van Ael.

**Your help is Needed!**

**Exploring Aspects of War in and Through the Visual Arts** considers views on war and military conflict from the perspective of the homefront, the battlefield and back home again. The Visual Arts have served in all cultures and periods to document, motivate, memorialize, facilitate healing, critique and protest military action.

**Wanted:** Military artwork and memorabilia.
Contact the Museum to participate 815-753-1936.

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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
Confirm your subscription by clicking the link in the confirmation email.
Current Exhibitions continued

BIG/-driven/Visualized…
Continued from page 1...
The exhibition has a range of artists engaged with data visualization. At one end of the spectrum are artists like Northern Illinois University School of Art and Design faculty Joe Insley who is seeking visual analysis of data in pursuit of a deeper understanding of the data itself. At the other end of the spectrum are artists like Rhode Island School of Design faculty Sam Yates who is exploring the potential for metaphoric associations through his examination of the unexpected patterning that data analysis provides.

This exhibition was co-curated by NIU Art Museum staff with guest curator, Professor Richard Siegesmund, Professor of Art+Design Education in the NIU School of Art and Design. Siegesmund has an interest in both quantitative and qualitative research, and the design of data reports that promote thoughtful public reflection and discussion.

Exhibiting artists include: Christopher Baker, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC); Michael Banicki, Chicago (NIU alumnus); Courtney Barr, Louisiana State University; Stephen Cartwright, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign; Annie Laurie Erickson, Tulane University; Chad Erpelding, Boise State University; Andrew Hunter, SAIC; Joseph Insley, School of Art and Design, Northern Illinois University; Anne Lindberg, University of North Carolina, Wilmington; Nathalie Miebach, Massachusetts College of Art; Andrew O’Brien, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; Michael Oliveri, University of Georgia; Kim Rice, Baltimore; Jason Salamon, University of Chicago; Frances Whitehead, SAIC, (NIU alumna); Kalina Winska, Valdosta State, GA; Yamin Xu, Northern Illinois University, (NIU Graduate student); Samuel Yates, Rhode Island School of Design.


Live Dance Performances
In the last week of the Transparent Factors in Form and Content exhibition, the NIU Art Museum hosted advanced dance students from the NIU School of Theatre and Dance presenting live improvisational work in the galleries.

The students of Paula Frasz and Judith Chitwood toured the gallery with Museum Assistant Director Peter Olson, selected artwork to which they personally responded as well as music (or silence) to choreograph their individual improvisational dance. The students then performed their kinetic interpretations inspired by the visual art to the delight of visitors during a series of three recitals in the galleries. Students included Alexsandra Rockman, Jordan Murphy, Lance Gasher, Matt Skorupski and Brenda Sifuentes.

If you missed this performance, additional events are scheduled for the DATA Exhibition Suite. See our events calendar for details.

Left, Brenda Sifuentes’s dance choreography was inspired by Stephanie McMahon’s paintings with their vibrant colors and graceful lines contrasted with Nicole Lenz’s geometric black and white photographs (not pictured).
**Museum Staff**
Jo Burke, Director
Peter Olson, Assistant Director
Stuart Henn, Marketing and Education
Millicent Kennedy, Installer
Christina Warzecha, Installer

**Graduate Assistants**
Zach Bath
Christina Kang

**Museum Assistants**
Isabel Angulo
Georgi Beck
Avery LaPlante
Ari Norris
Sai Harini Perugupalli
Elizabeth Russo
Yamaira Janel Velez

**Exhibition Advisory Committee**
Michael Bennett
Mary-Glynn Boies
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Destiny McDonald
Nina Rizzo
Peter Van Ael
Yamaira Janel Velez

**Education Advisory Committee**
Joshua Anderson
Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz
Kryssi Staikidis

Visit niu.edu/artmuseum
Phone: 815-753-1936
Email: artmuseum@niu.edu

Receive our email updates by visiting our website: www.niu.edu/artmuseum/about/subscribe.shtml

Friend us on Facebook
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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. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weekdays.

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

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**Staff Announcements**

Museum Assistant Ari Norris’s work has been accepted into the 5th International Exhibition on Conceptual Art at the Czong Institute for Contemporary Art Museum (CICA) in Gyeonggi-do, South Korea. The exhibition will take place summer 2019.

Assistant Director Peter Olson’s prints and drawings can be seen in the exhibition A Catalogue of Obsessions at the Elgin Public Museum (EPM) in Lord’s Park, Elgin, IL. The exhibit traces the arc of Olson’s flirtation with natural history: in the wild, in museums and on the pages of antique textbooks. The Neo-classical building at the EPM was originally built to house the natural history collection of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Lord. Peter’s show acknowledges the setting of the natural history museum by including 19th century illustrations (by the likes of Georges Cuvier and John James Audubon). “These illustrations have been a great inspiration to me. To exhibit my work alongside them, in a setting where they are also surrounded by fossils, shells, neo-classical architecture and taxidermy specimens is a dream come true.”

Museum Assistant Elizabeth Russo’s design was selected for the 5th annual ARTigras event and will be featured on the poster and event announcements. Congrats!

Welcome Yamaira Velez! Velez joined the NIU Art Museum as a Gallery Assistant in January after being referred by alumna Michelle Ramirez, a former Museum Assistant. Velez is a freshman business and marketing student at NIU this year. She worked for Ramirez as a summer arts camp counselor for the McCormick YMCA of Chicago leading arts and crafts and recreational activities for children.

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**Save the Dates for Artigras 2019**

**Friday, May 3**
**Saturday, May 4**

The celebrated annual Spring Arts event presented by NIU School of Art and Design and Downtown Dekalb.

niu.edu/ARTigras
Facebook: DeKalbARTigras

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**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 April 2.

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.

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Thursday, March 28
Public Reception
5-8 p.m., Art Museum

Thursday, March 28
Informal Talks by Exhibiting Artists in the Gallery
starting at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 2
BIG, -driven, Visualized Curator’s Informal Gallery Talk
Richard Siegesmund, Professor of Art Education+Design
5:10-6:30 p.m., Art Museum

Thursday, April 11
Computer Science on the Chicago Streets: Conversations on Data Visualization
Curator Richard Siegesmund moderates a discussion with Michael Papka, Professor of Computer Science and Joe Insley, Assistant Professor of Design talking about their Argonne National Lab research and its visualization among other things.
5:05-6 p.m., Altgeld 125

Sunday, April 14
Spreading Ideas about Data
Richard Siegesmund, Professor of Art Education+Design and Stuart W. Henn, Museum Education Coordinator examine several Data related TED Talks and other recorded presentations.
1-3 p.m., Altgeld 125

Tuesday, April 16
Floating Data
Artist’s Talk, Stephen Cartwright, Associate Professor, Sculpture and Foundations, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
5:05-6 p.m., Altgeld 125

Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m.
Friday, May 10 at 12:10 p.m.
DATA: What Really Counts?
Featuring dance students of NIU School of Theatre and Dance, students respond to and interpret artwork in the gallery through performance.
Art Museum galleries

Related CVPA Events
The Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín concert is Sunday, April 28 at 3 p.m. in Boutell Memorial Concert Hall. The performance tells the story of the courageous Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezín) during World War II who performed Verdi’s Requiem.
More information can be found online at https://niuarts.com/2019/03/school-of-music-to-present-defiant-requiem-verdi-at-terezin-april-28/

Related Events continued...
The exhibition Expressions of Defiance with artists from the Jewish Artists Collective-Chicago will also be on display in the Reynolds Whitney Gallery in the NIU School of Music. The works on view address the timeless theme of the arts as a response to oppression, and also to the humanizing and life-giving power of making art in inhuman circumstances.
Participating artists include: Sylvia Alotta, Gabriella Boros, Susan Dickman, Berit Engen, Jonathan Franklin, Alan Hobscheid, Ellen Holtzblatt, Judith Joseph, Carol Neiger, Dimitri Pavlotsky.

Bent by Martin Sherman is a collaborative project between Northern Illinois University’s College of Visual & Performing Arts, The Graduate School, Gender/Sexuality Resource Center, School of Theatre and Dance, School of Music and School of Art and Design. The play brings awareness to the persecution of homosexuals during the Holocaust, as it follows one man’s journey with being able to find his own identity as a gay man during this terrible time.
Performances are May 2, 3, 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Corner Theatre, Stevens Building. Tickets $5 students/$10 Adults available at the door.
Posters, programs and set pieces designed by School of Art and Design students along with accompanying pop-up exhibition.

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change. Please check our website for additions and updates. For questions please phone 815-753-1936.
Monday, April 15
The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Spertus Institute
In relation to the NIU School of Music’s presentation of the Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín concert and the Jewish Artists Collective-Chicago’s exhibition at NIU, the NIU Art Museum will visit the Holocaust Museum in Skokie for a docent-led guided tour of the permanent exhibition. The tour seamlessly weaves survivor narratives, personal belongings, photographs, and videos into a moving and responsive experience. At the time of reservation, if you would like to view the free survivor holographic performance at 4 p.m. please let us know to reserve your seat. We’ll also visit the Spertus Institute’s exhibition, The Three Escapes of Hannah Arendt, with original illustrations by cartoonist Ken Krimstein. Enjoy lunch at family-owned Kaufman’s Delicatessen in Skokie for their signature deli sandwiches with in-house smoked pastrami or other menu favorites. Limited to 15 participants.

RSVP by 04/08/19. Departure 9:45 a.m. Expected Return 7 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $55; Non-Member St/Sr $60; Non-Member Adult $65. Ticket price includes guided tour and transportation. Meals and incidentals not included.

Thursday, May 16 – Sunday, May 19
Overnight Excursion Mt. Vernon and Paducah
Limited Seating—Excursion full! Now, happily accepting reservations for the waiting list.
More information online at https://niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/upcoming.shtml.

Sunday, June 2
Members-only Bus Trip!
Not a member? Then, call to join today!
Rembrandt and Manet: Two Masters
Join us for this exclusive, NIU Art Museum Members-only excursion to view two wonderful exhibitions at the Art Institute with traveling works by Rembrandt and Manet. Rembrandt Portraits examines Rembrandt’s complex approach to portraiture—his constructed identities, lighting, ambiguous settings, and self-portraits with work on loan from the Norton Simon Foundation. The second exhibition, Manet and Modern Beauty—the first Art Institute exhibition devoted to Manet in over 50 years—suggests that he unapologetically embraced beauty and visual pleasure as well as modernity and fashionable femininity. Take time to explore the Art Institute’s collection, enjoy lunch in the Museum Café courtyard.

RSVP by 05/29/19. Departure 10 a.m. Expected Return 7 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $20; Join today! NIU Art Museum Membership: Individual $25 / Dual $45 / Student $10 / Senior $15 / Dual Senior $25. Ticket price includes transportation. AIC Admission on your own (AIC Members free; IL residents $22 Adults; $16 St/Sr). 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. Thanks to: Bob Banke for his photographic services at our receptions and of the collection as well as installation assistance; Gary Burchett for mailing support and reception preparations; graduate student David Harrington (American History) and undergraduate Christine Heinz (Art History) for their research support on special assignments; Amy Levin and Eric Crane, Elizabeth Bass, and Katharine Barbe and Wendell Johnson for opening their homes to host an exhibit installation crew member overnight thus saving the museum and worker much money, time and commuter angst. From the College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean’s office, Susan Carter for accounting assistance and Jay Monteiro for Membership and event support. Thank you to all of our generous volunteers.

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
The DATA Exhibition Suite is sponsored in part by Northern Public Radio WNIJ/WNIU. Artwork and objects for the DATA exhibition suite are on loan from the exhibiting artists; the James B. and Rosalyn L. Pick Museum of Anthropology; the Map Collection of the Rare Books and Special Collections and the Regional History Center and University Archives, Founders Memorial Library at NIU.

Sustaining Members

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Jerry & Annette Johns
Dr. Anne C. Kaplan
Richard & Kathleen Katz
John and Barbara Peters

Collection Spotlight
Image page 8.

Categories and rankings: two things that make up the subject of Michael Banicki’s major body of work in his “rating” paintings reveal the artist’s personal evaluations of common ordinary objects. Banicki’s drawings and paintings resemble informational graphs or charts but record his personal, subjective judgments of categorical lists that range from berry plants, mosses, farm tractors, German cities, fowl, to chart topping musicians.

In the Museum’s piece for example Banicki rates berry plants and planets in the same work. It illuminates a relationship between the individual subjects listed on the two axes of the grid with an extremely simple comparative rubric of “+”, “-”, or “=” and records his individual assessments and decisions. But the viewer, however; without the criteria used to make the ratings is left to struggle with Banicki’s simple rankings alone. The viewer can draw references to other such subjective informational data systems or appraisals as well as their own personal process of preference making. His paintings reveal complex hierarchies, some banal – some based on sophisticated style, taste, or knowledge.

Banicki’s limited palette choice or monochromatic use of color in Berry Plant Rating / Planet Rating creates a muted composition of repetitive values that seen from a distance obscures the true informative nature of the work. The simple compositions of repetitive marks on a grid are rhythmic and reminiscent of modernist Piet Mondrian’s non-objective paintings or minimalist Agnes Martin’s compositions. One must get close to Banicki’s work to understand the complex narrative of comparison relayed in the meticulous visual message of the color-coded marks. Once drawn in, the viewer realizes the vast amount of information conveyed through the deceivingly simplistic grid.

Thank you for your continued support.
Membership renewal notices are not mailed. Please check if your membership card is expiring soon and renew today!

Continued page 8.
BECOME A FRIEND!

Engage and benefit from a closer connection with the arts! Enjoy early-bird announcements, discounts, and members' only events. Take satisfaction in your vital commitment to support our exhibitions, programs and the preservation of our collection. Join Now!

If you are already a current member, please share this form with a friend. Thank you.

Friends Level

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

Sponsor $100
Choice of one Sponsor Collector Print Series:

Sidney Chaifetz, Public Servant
William Daley, Untitled (sketches for ceramics)
David Driesbach, The Pied Piper
Larry Gregory, Conkles Hollow, Ohio
Charlottle Rollman, Hopkins Park, DeKalb
John Pitman Weber, Distant Soweto

Patron $250
Choice of one Patron Collector Print Series:

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

Benefactor $500
Choice of one Benefactor Collector Print Series:

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

Membership Level Benefits

Choice of one Friends of the NIU Art Museum premium
Priority registration and discounted fees on museum activities
Printed mailing of exhibition announcements
Special members-only previews, receptions, bus trips and special events
20% discount on NIU Art Museum catalogues
Subscription to Museum Notes members’ newsletter
Recognition in Museum Notes
Name engraved on Membership Plaque in Museum
Private tour (options available)

Friend □ □ □ □
Sponsor □ □ □ □
Patron □ □ □ □
Benefactor □ □ □ □

Subject to print availability.

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

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

Sponsor $100 Patron $250 Benefactor $500

□ Please keep my premium and use my entire gift for programming and collection care.

Premium Selection ____________________________ Print Series Selection _______________________________________________________

E-mail ____________________________

Payment
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)

Return this portion to the NIU Art Museum, Altgeld 116, 1425 W. Lincoln Highway, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
Collection Spotlight

Berry Plant Rating / Planet Rating, 1987
Michael Banicki (American b. 1956)

...continued from page 6.
Banicki, who lives and works in Chicago, is an NIU alumnus who graduated with a BFA in 1981. Be sure to see this work and others by Banicki on view in the DATA: BIG/-driven/Visualized... exhibition currently on view at the Art Museum March 28 through May 17.