Current Exhibitions

Winter 2018-2019 Transparency Suite

Transparent Factors in Form and Content
Rotunda and South Galleries

Transparent Factors presents literal and figurative interpretations and investigations along the spectrum of transparency, translucency and opacity. Artists in the exhibition explore the capacity of “transparent” mediums like air, water, light and glass to clarify and reveal, or to obscure and distort (sometimes simultaneously). Some artists see visual phenomena as metaphors for the openness, disclosure and accessibility (or lack thereof) in practices of wielding authority, making decisions or disseminating information.

Vanishing Art from Myanmar: The Buddhist Reverse Glass Painting Tradition
North and Hallcase Galleries

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.

Photo below: Nat U Min Kyaw [Lord Gambler] from Pakhan Kyi and his Companion Mr. Brown. Artist Soe Aung (Syriam, Myanmar); Late 20th century, Burma/Myanmar; Glass, enamel paint, metallic foil; (19.25” x 15.25 in.). Burma Art Collection. BC2017.01.18.

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Transparent Factors continued...


Vanishing Art continued...

Once very popular in Asia from the 18th to the mid-20th century, the reverse glass painting (RGP) art form was inspired by the European tradition of painting directly on flat glass to be seen through the reverse unpainted side. RGPs were known at the court in Burma since the 18th century. They became popular between the mid-19th and the mid-20th century for Buddhist merit-making and worship of the divine due to their glossy quality. With the advent of print, the tradition vanished. RGPs were again revived by devotees of nats spirits and wizard followers in the 1970s until the turn of 21st century.

RGPs donated to the Burma Art Collection at NIU over the last 30 years prompted the study of the vanishing art form. Since 2014, the Reverse Glass Painting Project was launched by the curator of the collection along with a team of students and faculty from NIU and two Burmese universities. Together, they have explored the RGP techniques and interviewed the remaining Burmese reverse glass painters. This exhibition is the result of this interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

Looking Through the Glass: Asian Reverse Glass Painting Traditions
Center for Burma Studies

Friday, November 16, 2018
Altgeld Hall 315, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Symposium Schedule

9 a.m. Light breakfast
9:45 a.m. Welcome Remarks
10 a.m. Remarks on Southeast Asian Reverse Glass Painting

Burma/Myanmar
10:30 a.m. Burmese Reverse Glass Painting in Perspective
Catherine Raymond, Ph.D., Northern Illinois University

11 a.m. The Burmese Artist-Chemist: The Wet Collodion Process in Mass-Produced Reverse Glass Paintings
Carrin Berchichi, M.A. art history, Northern Illinois University

11:30 a.m. A Modern Escapade: Reverse Glass Painting in Bagyi Aung Soe’s Oeuvre
Yin Ker, Ph.D., Nanyang University, Singapore

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch break (on your own)

China
1:30 p.m. Chinese Reverse Glass Painting: Collection at The Corning Museum of Glass
Shelly Xue, Ph.D., Shanghai Institute of Visual Art Carpenter Foundation Fellow for Asia Glass at Corning Museum of Glass

Indonesia
2 p.m. The Heart and the Fringes: Holy Places of Islam through Javanese Reverse Glass Painting
Jerome Samuel, Ph.D., Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, InoCo, Paris

2:30 p.m. Glimpses of Indonesia: An Exploration of Represented Realities in Collected Glass Paintings
Rosalia Sciortino, Ph.D., Mahidol University, Bangkok

Cambodia
3 p.m. Looking for Reverse Glass Painting in Cambodia
Sophya Somcheat, National Museum, Phnom Penh and Catherine Raymond, Ph.D., Northern Illinois University

3:30 p.m. The Montague Collection of Reverse Glass Painting from Cambodia
Joel Montague, collector of Cambodian Reverse Glass Paintings

4 p.m. Closing Remarks and Questions & Answers

International Symposium organized by Catherine Raymond, Director Center for Burma Studies. For more information visit niu.edu/burma. Lectures are open to the public. Please RSVP to BurmaStudies@niu.edu.

Funded with support from the Allen Series Fund, Division of Art History, NIU School of Art and Design; the NIU College of Visual and Performing Arts, the NIU Graduate School, the NIU Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships; the NIU Center for Southeast Asia Studies, the Burma Studies Foundation and the Center for Burma Studies at NIU; the public. Please RSVP to BurmaStudies@niu.edu.
The NIU School of Art and Design is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Jack Arends Hall, a building named for Arends, who was crucial in securing funding for the multi-million dollar building to house the University’s visual arts program.

“A weaver, designer and painter, Arends chaired the NIU art faculty from his arrival at the DeKalb campus in 1962 until 1973. Under his direction the faculty grew from 14 professors to 70 by 1968. By the time its four-story 104,000-square-foot building was dedicated in 1971, the department had more than 1,000 undergraduate art majors and 340 graduate art students.”

An Iowa native, Arends graduated from the University of Northern Iowa before attending the Stone City Art Colony and School in 1932 after he received an art scholarship. There he studied under American Regionalist Grant Wood before leaving to attend Columbia University’s Teachers College where he received a Doctorate in Art and Art Education in 1952.

In the photo, Arends is seated far right while Grant Wood, standing at the left, can be identified by his signature bib overalls.

Jack Arends  Continued from page 8.

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Calendar

Events and Programs

Tuesday, November 13
Gibson + Recoder: Transparent Processes
Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder
Artist Slide Presentation
5-6 p.m., Altgeld 125

Wednesday, January 23
Layers of Meaning
Informal Curator Talk with Peter Olson
12:10-12:50 p.m., Museum

Thursday, November 15
Public Opening Reception
Transparency Suite
5-7 p.m., All galleries, NIU Art Museum

Wednesday, January 30
Idolizing Images
Jeroen Nelemans
Artist Slide Presentation
5-6 p.m., Altgeld 125

Friday, November 16
Looking through the Glass: Asian Reverse Glass Painting Traditions
International Symposium organized by the Center for Burma Studies
See full symposium schedule page 2.

Monday, February 4
Open Window
Stephanie McMahon
Artist Slide Presentation
6:15-7 p.m., JAH/VAB 103

Friday, February 8
The Genesis of a Project: Reverse Glass Painting in Southeast Asia
Catherine Raymond, Director Center for Burma Studies
Brown bag luncheon sponsored by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Noon – 1 p.m.; Campus Life 100

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 November 20:

- 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.

School of Art and Design Visiting Alumni

Lynn Stockton, Art Ed Lecture
Wednesday, November 14
5-6 p.m., Jack Arends 211

Valerie Wallace Artist Lecture
Thursday, November 15
5 – 6 p.m., Jack Arends TBD

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.
Wednesday, November 28
Chicago Streamlines
Visit the Chicago History Museum’s exhibition on Chicago’s vibrant position in American design and the city’s role in shaping the popular streamline movement in the early part of the 20th century. The movement came of age during the depths of the Great Depression when Chicago emerged as a center of streamlined design showcased at the 1933-34 Century of Progress World’s Fair. Many local Chicago brand icons adopted the styling including Radio Flyer, Sunbeam and Farmall. Afterward enjoy dinner at J. Parker, a rooftop restaurant in the neighborhood. Group size limited to 15 participants! RSVP by 11/26. Departure 9 a.m. Expected Return 8 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $25; Non-Member St/Sr $30; Non-Member Adult $35. Ticket price includes transportation. Chicago History Museum admission on your own; Adults $19 St/Sr $17. 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.

Tuesday, February 26
Alexander Calder/Jeff Koons at the MCA
Visit the MCA, Chicago’s celebratory 50th Anniversary exhibition that brings together two of the most important artists in the Museum’s collection. Calder’s weightless sculptures and Koons’s celebration of the mundane and concrete, in Heaven and Earth: Alexander Calder and Jeff Koons that highlights both artists’ interest in playing with balance and gravity to make compelling sculptural statements while reveling in the contrasts between high art and mundane materials. 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 02/19. Departure 9 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. MCA Admission free on Tuesday for IL residents. Meals and incidentals not included.

Our Volunteers
The Museum would like to extend its gratitude to the following volunteers and individuals for their continued support. Special thanks to: **Michael Bennett** for installation and construction assistance; **Bob Banke** for his photographic services at our receptions and of the collection; and **Terri Smialek** for serving as a Museum gallery attendant this fall. From the College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean’s office, **Susan Carter** for accounting assistance and Jay Monteiro for Membership and event support. Museum Studies students Nathaniel Pendergraft and Markie Striegel for installation of Vanishing Art.

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. Additional support came from the Center for Burma Studies, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and the interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in Museum Studies at NIU.

Exhibitions
Artwork and objects for Transparent Factors in Form and Content and Vanishing Art from Myanmar: The Buddhist Reverse Glass Painting Tradition exhibitions are on loan from the exhibiting artists, the Burma Art Collection at NIU and the NIU Art Museum Collections.

Sponsoring Members
**Sponsors**
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Rudolf & Ingeborg Bisanz
Peggy Burke & Ed Wietecha
Susan Carter & Robert Sabin
John & Nancy Castle
Edward & Donna Flanagan
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Steven & Deborah Johnson
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Christine Worley & Peter J. Hood

Benefactors
Richard & Thecla Cooler
Larry & Carmela Gregory
Jerry & Annette Johns
Richard & Kathleen Katz
John and Barbara Peters

Donated Artworks Enliven Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts Paul Kassel’s Office.

This Fall, the Art Museum’s staff installed several works around campus from the Museum’s Art to Lend program. This annual summer event allows university departments and individuals to enhance their private offices and administrative areas of the university by renting original works of art.

Dean **Paul Kassel** selected several works from the short exhibition to decorate his office. You can learn about the Art to Lend program by visiting our website here niu.edu/artmuseum/collection/art-to-lend.shtml.

The Art to Lend program enriches the University’s welcoming nature for students, faculty and staff as well as brightens the experience for public visitors and provides daily enjoyment in the workplace. Each work meant for public display was carefully selected by museum staff for its broad appeal and its ability to be on loan for up to eight years.

Above: Paul Kassel works in his office under a painting and collage by former faculty member Ben Mahmoud. Left: Curator Peter Olson (seated) and Graduate Assistants Zach Bath (left) and Chris Kang (middle) make layout decisions while installing work in the office of the Dean.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Membership renewal notices are not mailed. Please check if your membership card is expiring soon and renew today!*
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 Chaetz, Public Servant
William Daley, Untitled (sketches for ceramics)
David Driesbach, The Pied Piper
Larry Gregory, Conkles Hollow, Ohio
Peter Olson, Hummingbird Nebula
Charlotte 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

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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

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

- 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 _______________________________________

Name ________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________
City ____________________________ State _______ ZIP ________________
Phone ____________________________ Mobile ____________________________

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 60155
Collection Spotlight

Jack Arends: Namesake for the Visual Arts Building

Untitled, n.d. Fiber Weaving
Jack Arends (American b.1911 d.1986)

The Art Museum collection contains this woven wall hanging by Jack Arends, a former chair of the Art Department and namesake for the School of Art and Design’s Visual Arts building. The geometric, non-objective composition and its vibrant color scheme are reminiscent of the late 1960s and early 1970s era when Arends was at NIU as the chair. The work hung for many years in the School of Art and Design’s administrative offices before being gifted to the NIU Art Museum’s collection.


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

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

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.

5 – 7 p.m. NIU Art Museum
Thursday, November 15
Public Opening Reception
November 16, 2018 – February 15, 2019

Transparency Suite

The staff may be reached via phone and email.

Gallery Hours:

Galleries closed during University Holidays
Thanksgiving Break: November 21 - 25
Winter Break: December 15 - January 14

5 – 7 p.m. 1st Floor, NIU Art Museum

niu.edu/artmuseum