Opening Exhibition

NIU School of Art and Design Faculty Biennial
January 14 – March 18, 2020

Presented every two years, this invitational show features recent artwork and scholarship by current faculty and teaching staff from all divisions of the NIU School of Art and Design and highlights the artistry, research, and instruction found at NIU. The work on display represents the activity and interests of the individual members of the School of Art and Design, but also the breadth of the arts programs and disciplines offered at NIU. Work and research of over thirty individuals are represented and includes the disciplines of: Art and Design Education; Art History; Ceramics; Drawing; Fibers; Illustration; Metals and Jewelry; Painting; Photography; Printmaking; Visual Communications; Sculpture; and Time Arts. The gallery exhibition and accompanying public talks and lectures allow visitors and students to see these talented individuals outside of the traditional classroom or studio setting.

A calendar of events on page 4 includes a series of public programs that present the personal influences, art-making practices and research interests of our participating faculty.

Thursday, January 23
Public Reception
5-7 p.m., Art Museum

Continued page 2.
Faculty Biennial continued

This year’s biennial coincides with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design’s (NASAD) review of the programs and degrees offered by the School. NASAD is an organization of schools, conservatories, colleges, and universities with approximately 363 accredited institutional members. It establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials for art and design and art/design-related disciplines, and provides assistance to institutions and individuals engaged in artistic, scholarly, educational, and other art/design-related endeavors.

Featuring: Michael Barnes, Wes Beeler, Sinclair Bell, Justin Bitner and Angela Johnson, Sasha Bitzer, Todd Buck, Christopher Dolan, Sarah Evans, Billie Giese, Aleksandra Giza, Cynthia Hellyer Heinz, Rebecca Houze, Joseph A. Insley and Jifu Tan, Jim Kearns, Yih-Wen Kuo, Jessica Labatte, Kimberly Martens, Jamie Obermeier, Catherine Raymond, Mike Rea, Nina Rizzo, Kimberly Rodye, Stephanie Sailer, John Siblik, Richard Siegesmund, Geoffrey Todd Smith, Kryssi Staikidis, Perrin Stamatis, Ben Stone, Frank Trankina, Peter Van Ael, Amanda VanValkenburg, Shei-Chau Wang, Katherine M. Webb.

Above: Foreground detail of Mike Rea’s Tight Notes and Black Holes, CTINH, 2019, Wood and rope, with Michael Barnes’ Animals of Bremen, 2018-2019, Lithograph, and Nina Rizzo’s Venetian Moon, 2019, Oil on canvas seen on the gallery walls.

Below: View of Ben Stone’s Danny Karate and Danny Baseball, installations in foreground with Kryssi Staikidis’ Emergence, 2018-2019, Oil on canvas.

Upcoming Exhibition

“Very Well, Thank You”: The Arts as a Means to Well Being
April 16 – June 5, 2020
Explores the unique way the arts assist in maintaining social, psychological and physical health and happiness.
Public Reception Thursday, April 16, 5-7 p.m., Art Museum Galleries

Related Event

**FREE NIU Health and Wellness Fair**

**Wednesday, April 1**
Sponsored by the NIU Employee Assistance Program and Recreation Services the annual Health & Wellness Fair provides information regarding all aspects of health and overall well-being for employees, students, retirees and members of the community to equip and empower improved self-care. email EmployeeAssistance@niu.edu 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Holmes Student Center Ballroom

Staff Announcements

Museum Director **Jo Burke** will serve as Award Juror for **Visual Harmony**, a multi-media group exhibition exploring patterns found in nature, design and construction running January 11 – February 16, 2020 at the Norris Cultural Art Center in Saint Charles, Illinois. Public reception is Sunday, January 26 from 2-4 p.m.

A **Catalogue of Obsessions** was the title **Assistant Director Peter Olson** gave to his recent exhibition at the Kishwaukee College Art Gallery in Malta, Illinois. Olson has been “obsessed” with birds and their depiction in art for many years. “The large gallery space out there seemed daunting at first,” Olson recalls. “I wondered if I would have enough work to fill it,” But the extra space gave rise to the idea of expanding the exhibition to include antique Natural History illustrations by John James Audubon and others. “Old prints inspire me; in my head they are all jumbled together with prints that I have made, so why shouldn’t an exhibition reflect that?”

“I love the idea of bringing a little art to scientists and a little science to artists.”
David Driesbach
(1922 – 2019)
Former Printmaking Faculty Member Passes.

After a long, productive and inspiring life, David F. Driesbach passed away last month at the age of 97. Driesbach enjoyed a close relationship with the NIU Art Museum, which hosted his first retrospective exhibition in 1991 following his retirement from the university. It was after this exhibition that Driesbach’s family donated a substantial number of his original prints, working proofs, drawings, watercolors, oil paintings, printing plates and even engraving tools to the Art Museum’s permanent collection.

In 2009, he and his working process were the subject of a traveling exhibition organized by NIU Museum Studies Graduate Certificate students and a second retrospective was shown in 2018 at Rockford University with a number of works on loan from the Art Museum and Assistant Director Peter Olson, Driesbach’s last Graduate Student before retiring. “While he was the oldest faculty member at the time, he had the youngest mind,” Olson recalls, “every day brought more innovative ideas and crazy new etching techniques.”

The 64 page illustrated exhibition catalog for his 1991 retrospective is available for sale for $15 from the Art Museum and features an essay by Dr. Jerry Meyer and an artist statement. Please visit niu.edu/artmuseum/exhibitions/publications.shtml for more details.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of David may be directed to the NIU Foundation for the benefit of the NIU Art Museum (P.O. Box 746, DeKalb, IL 60115).

Obituaries may be found in the Chicago Tribune, Daily Herald and on the Northern Public Radio website.
Calendar

Thursday, January 23
Public Reception
5-7 p.m., Art Museum

Tuesday, January 28
Film Screening and Discussion with Nina Rizzo
Join Associate Professor of Studio Art – Painting Nina Rizzo as she screens and discusses interesting films related to her work.
5 p.m., Jack Arends Hall 110

Thursday, February 6
The Weight of Stone: Context and Narratives
Presentation of personal artwork and related research and artistry activities that inspire and direct the work of Professor of Studio Art – Printmaking Michael Barnes.
5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 125

Thursday, February 13
Lucca: A New Materialisms Exploration of Space and Time
A discussion of the series of prints inspired by the timeworn inscriptions in the paving stones in the city of Lucca, Italy with Professor of Art + Design Education, Richard Siegesmund. These prints demonstrate the American philosopher John Dewey's theory of aesthetics.
5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 125

Wednesday, February 19
Design, Heritage, and Cultural Identity in Europe and North America
Professor of Art History Rebecca Houze discusses how designers in both Europe and North America, such as Anna Lesznai, Mariska Undi, and Mary Colter appropriated traditional textiles, folk art, and vernacular architecture to negotiate their roles as modern women in a rapidly industrializing world.
5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 125

Wednesday, February 26
Stars May Fall
Associate Professor of Studio Art – Drawing Billie Giese will share her visual documentation and field observations with cross-disciplinary specialists she visited in fall 2019. These experts, located in a variety of geographic locations, are notable for working on the human ecological impacts on the natural world in urban/suburban living spaces.
5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 125

Tuesday, March 3
Art + Science Artist Talk
From biology student to medical illustrator and Professor of Art, Todd Buck will discuss how he combined his passions for art and science and how his work continues to evolve.
5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 125

Wednesday, March 4
No Satisfaction: The Exquisite Sociability of the 1970s No Wave
Associate Professor of Art History Sarah Evans examines No Wave filmmaker Eric Mitchell’s 1978 film Kidnapped in context with Andy Warhol, late 1970s appropriation art and punk movements.
5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 125

Tuesday, March 17
The Art of Difference: Visualizing Race in the Roman Empire
Can we use the concept of “race” in order to understand how peoples in the ancient Mediterranean world understood one another? Associate Professor of Art History Sinclair Bell will address this question through the lens of representations of Sub-Saharan Africans in works of “art” and material culture in the Roman Empire.
12-1 p.m., Altgeld Hall 125

School of Art and Design Visiting Artists and Scholars

Wednesday, February 4
Reproduction: Art, Print, Comics with Joseph Lupo
5 p.m., Jack Arends 111

Thursday, February 20
Artist Talk – Jefferson Pinder
6 p.m., Jack Arends 110

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 latest programming details. niu.edu/artmuseum/events
Tuesday, April 28

Museum of Contemporary Art’s Water After All exhibition and Downtown Galleries

Spend an afternoon exploring Chicago’s contemporary art scene. Visit the MCA’s exhibition Water After All that speaks to humanity’s politically and economically driven intervention in the environment. View the exhibition’s centerpiece video installation of John Akomfrah’s Vertigo Sea, 2015, a celebrated recent acquisition. While in Chicago, visit the River North or West Loop arts districts to explore several of the galleries at your own pace with time for dinner in River North’s or Water Tower’s restaurants.

RSVP by 04/23. Departure 12:30 p.m. Expected Return 9 p.m. Price: Members $30; Non-Member St/Sr $35; Non-Member Adult $40. Ticket price includes transportation. MCA Admission free on Tuesday for IL residents. Meals and incidentals not included.


Saturday, June 6

Taliesin in the Summer

Join us for an exciting summer day trip to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin home and studio in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Enjoy a docent-led guided tour of Wright’s rural estate in the Wisconsin River Valley in the picturesque rolling hills of the Driftless area. See design elements from nearly every decade of Wright’s career on the two-hour walking tour. In 2019, UNESCO added Taliesin to the list of World Heritage Sites for Wright’s impact on the development of modern architecture.

Full trip details online at niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/upcoming.shtml

Walking tour requires a significant amount of standing, stair climbing and walking on uneven terrain. There are several series of steps and some with no handrails. Exterior walkways consist of loose gravel or grassy pathways. Tours proceed rain or shine, please dress for the weather conditions and wear comfortable walking shoes. RSVP by 05/29. Nonrefundable after tour booking. Departure 8 a.m. Expected Return 7 p.m. Price: Members $105, Non-Member St/Sr $115; Non-Member Adult $125. Price includes $51 docent-led guided tour ticket and motor-coach transportation. Meals and incidentals not included.

Saturday, July 11

Frida Kahlo at the Cleve Carney Museum of Art

Kahlo 2020, a block-buster show at the newly renamed Cleve Carney Museum of Art, considers many elements at play in Kahlo’s work. The complexities of Kahlo’s paintings cannot be fully understood or appreciated without understanding the deeply autobiographical nature of her portraits, insight into her life, and the worlds she was a part of. The role of Mexico City as a center of international art and culture in the early and middle 20th century, as well as Kahlo’s lifelong refusal to allow illness to restrict her diverse and intense passions all influence the images she created. View this wonderful assembly of works on loan from the Dolores Olmedo Museum collection on our visit to the Cleve Carney Museum of Art at the College of DuPage.

RSVP by 06/15. Departure 12:30 p.m. Expected Return 7:30 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $45; Non-Member St/Sr $50; Non-Member Adult $55. Ticket price includes transportation and exhibition admission. 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: 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; Ari Norris for installation and fabrication support; School of Theatre and Dance students narrator/actor Brandon Sapp and dance performers George Curtis, Jordan Murphy and Anamis White, who performed Your Excellency - choreographed by NIU Professor of Dance Paula Fraz and inspired by black Union solider James Henry Gooding’s letter to President Abraham Lincoln. Lance Gasher, Lailani Goode, Nathalie Ocampo, Natalie Sanchez, Amanda Schierer and Matt Skorupski who interpreted pieces in the Aspects of War In and Through the Visual Arts exhibition performing a solo, duet and trio improv performances; Director Stanton Davis, Head of the BFA Performance and Associate Professor, Assistant Director McKinzy Vandertaan, Graduate Assistant and Kendra Helton, Assistant Professor—Movement all from the School of Theatre and Dance, as well as the student cast of Shakespeare’s Troilus and Cressida; Sophia Arnold, Joe Cambroni, Jacob Chan, Brendan Furlong, Ben Halder, Johnny Hohman, Nora Huberl, Chloe Janisch, Vincenti Juarez, Beth Kahan, Mikkel Knutson, Christopher Lebron, Juan Sedorio, Kaitlynn Shelton, Hunter Siegel for their performances of scene previews during the Friends of the NIU Art Museum private event. 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 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.

Exhibitions

Artwork and objects for the Faculty Biennial exhibition are on loan from the exhibiting artists and courtesy Western Exhibitions, Chicago.

Art and Wellness Collaborations:
Using the Visual and Performing Arts in Healing.

Paul Kassel, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts

The NIU Colleges of Health and Human Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts are partnering on an initiative to develop programming that introduces compassionate care in the nursing program. The first step in this collaborative process starts this spring as Valeri Lantz-Gefroh visits campus and serves as consultant on curriculum while leading workshops with NIU theatre and nursing students.

Ms. Lantz-Gefroh is a teacher, professional actor, director and the Artistic Director of the TCU and UNT School of Medicine. For the last decade she has created innovative curriculum based in theater practice to help speakers connect more empathetically with their audiences. Lantz-Gefroh plans to speak to MFA actors about how she arrived at this career path and invite them to attend a training session with the CHHS nursing students.

While in DeKalb, Lantz-Gefroh will perform Standing in My Shoes, a one-woman story about her brother’s death, written for medical schools and hospitals to create conversations around empathy and resilience. In addition, the College of Visual and Performing Arts will collaborate with Northwestern Medicine/Kishwaukee Hospital on an arts and wellness initiative in DeKalb. This comes out of the work of one of our fiber arts alums, Barbara Lee Smith. Smith has worked for many years with Duke Arts & Health program (https://artsandhealth.duke.edu/home) in Durham, North Carolina, exhibiting art work in their patient and visitor spaces. We are taking some modest steps with NU/Kish to enhance the healing spaces with visual arts. Sometime this spring, we hope to have Smith install her work in the Breast Cancer Center.

Follow more of this story on the CVPA Arts Blog https://niuarts.com this spring.

Sustaining Members

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

Support and Annual Members

Follow more of this story on the CVPA Arts Blog https://niuarts.com this spring.
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

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Subject to print availability.

Premjums

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

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 $ ____________.

Payment

Check enclosed $ ____________.

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 __________________________________________________________________
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Expiration ___________
Expiration ___________

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.
David F. Driesbach (1922-2019)

While this untitled en plein air watercolor is not typical of Driesbach’s printmaking style, it does represent the breadth of the NIU Art Museum’s archive of the prolific artist’s work.

Driesbach attended life drawing sessions, sketched from life on buses and trains and made studies such as this one to keep himself artistically limber, like a musician practicing scales.

For more see page 3.