

Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum



NIU Art Museum Vol. 28, Issue 2, Winter/Spring, 2025

Become a
Friend of the
NIU Art Museum!

New Members

John Himmelfarb
Alexis Rohan
Ryan Sarau-Young

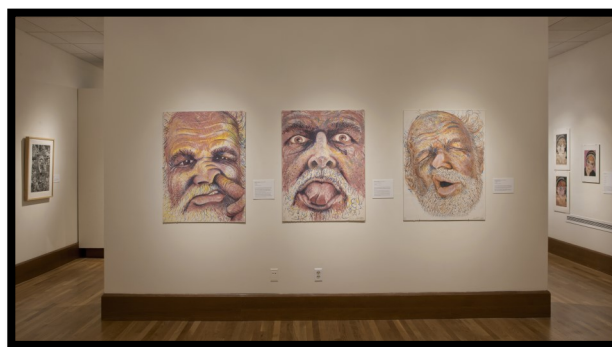
Recent Renewals

Joe and Cyndy Baumgart
Michael and Elaine Bennett
Rudolf and Ingeborg Bisanz
Deborah and Colin Booth
Susan Carter and Robert Sabin
Gary and Dee Coover
AnnaMarie Coveny
Pat and Steven Faivre
Robert Fleisher and Darsha Primich
Donna Gable and Ken Rodd
David and Linda Groat
Richard F. Grott
Lori Hartenhoff
Jitka Hurych
Jerry and Annette Johns
Richard and Kathleen Katz
Charles Larry and Emmylou Studier
Jerry and Miriam Meyer
Jan Modloff
Frances Moon
Nicolas Noe
Juliann K. Olsen
Elizabeth Plotnick
Michael and Robin Rothamer
Maureen Russell
Bill and Kathy Scarpaci
Beverly A. Smith
Jerry and Ging Smith
Ruth Anne Tobias

As of Dec. 12, 2024.



NIU Alumni artist Heather Green generously donated this piece titled "CeCe McDonald" to the Museum. It is now temporarily installed in the NIU Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, in GSRC Director Molly Holmes' office.



Photos top to bottom:
installation views from Fall
2024 "Seeing Each Other:
Portraits in Time and Place,"
"Hold Still: Portraits from the
Permanent Collection" and
"Homage to Humanity:
Portrait Prints by
Sidney Chafetz."

NIU ART MUSEUM



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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

Winter 2024-2025 Exhibitions

Nov. 20 to Dec. 14, 2024 and Jan. 15 to Feb. 15, 2025

College of Visual and Performing Arts Faculty Biennial

(Rotunda and South Galleries)

Shown every two years, this invitational exhibition not only features artwork and scholarship of current full-time and part-time faculty and teaching staff from the School of Art and Design, but work from the School of Music and School of Theatre and Dance as well. The work on display represents recent activity and interests of individual members in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Featuring work and scholarship from: School of Art and Design: art and design education; Kryssi Staikidis and Shei-Chau Wang; art foundations; John Siblik and Ben Stone; art history; Sarah Evans and Rebecca Houze; design and media art; Amy Fleming, Aleksandra Giza, Maria Grillo, Jessica Labatte, Perrin Stamatis, Amanda VanValkenburg and Jullian Young; studio art; Michael Barnes, Marisol Cervantes, Billie Giese, Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz, Jim Kearns, Millicent Kennedy, Kimberly Martens, Ari Norris, Nina Rizzo, Geoffrey Todd Smith and Frank Trankina; teaching staff; Janelle Rae and Veronica Storc; School of Music: Lucia Matos; School of Theatre and Dance: dance; Rich Grund; design and technology; Jeremy W. Floyd; history, literature and criticism; Gibson Cima.

New to the Collection (North Gallery)

Artists include: Letterio Calapai, Patricia Fennell, Jessica Gondek, Leo Limon, Ben Mahmoud, Gladys Nilsson, Rudy Pozzatti, Barbara Rossi, Paul Sierra, Gail Skudera, Clarissa Sligh, Eleanor Spiess-Ferris and Peter Van Ael.



Leo Limon, "L.A. Greenhouse Premiere." Purchased from the Brandywine Print Workshop and Archives with funds from the NIU Art and Culture Fee.

Dream Job

South Gallery

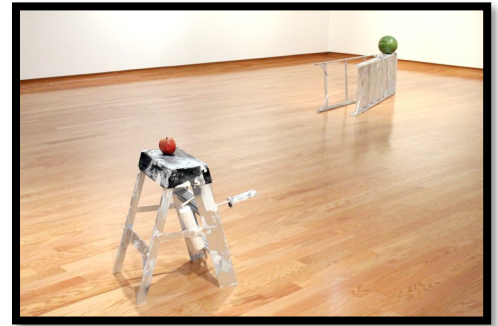
We all dream, but what is the "job" of dreams? What is their purpose? What truths might they reveal? How do they shape our perception of ourselves and our understanding of the world? Dreams are windows into our subconscious minds. Some dreams may tell a complete story while others provide random fragments of memories we may or may not recognize. Often, we have no conscious memory of our dreams. Yet, they can help us create new or different realities. There are myriad opinions regarding the role of the mysterious narratives and imagery generated by our brains while we are unconscious. The artwork in this exhibition was inspired by dreams (and nightmares).

Upcoming exhibitions:

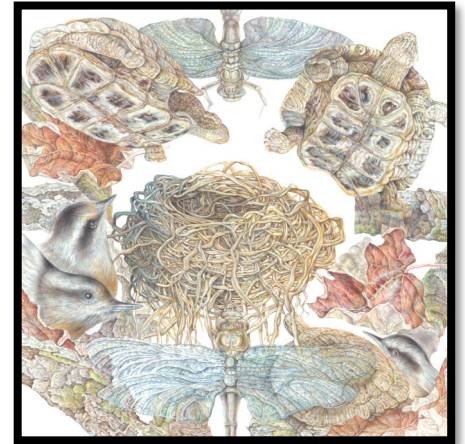
Fall 2025—"Legacies on Display: The Forbidden and Venerated Arts of Burma" and "Protest Posters from the Center for the Study of Political Graphics from Los Angeles, CA."

Winter 2026—"Hair: Identity, Expression and Style" and "Sacred Spaces: A Brandywine Workshop and Archives Print Exhibition organized by the Fairfield University Art Museum, Fairfield, CT."

Spring 2026—"NIU Printmaking:" Celebrating Current and Emeriti Faculty, Illustrious Alumni and Visiting Artists Who Have Pulled A Print Along with NIU Printmaking Students.



Ari Norris, "The Painters (Scale Model of the Space between the Earth and Moon.)"



Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz, "Mandala I: Micro Movement of Wings Finding a Portal."

Spring 2025 Exhibitions

March 19 to May 10, 2025

Mystery Dream Suite

Public opening reception: 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 20.

Phantasmagraphics: The Early Psychedelic Work of Douglas Binder

North Gallery

A small selection of Binder's gouache paintings on paper and a panel from his larger triptych will be on display. The work was selected by Museum Curator Peter Olson and NIU MA in Art History John Hosta (2024). Hosta worked on his thesis with a committee of Helen Nagata, Catherine Raymond and Peter Olson. His work entailed accessioning the large donation of Binder pieces from M.A. Lipschultz, interpreting the work, photographing and condition reporting on the pieces as well as conducting interviews with Douglas Binder.

A Deb Sokolow Sampler: 20 Years of Speculative Drawing

Rotunda Gallery

Snippets of truth jump out at the viewer when reading the early somewhat crudely rendered diaristic work as well as when one studies Sokolow's later more visually elegant architectural renderings. Both exemplify the artist's obsessive dissection and diagramming to clarify the unexplained. With humor and a dose of paranoia, she burrows deeply when researching her topics deconstructing and critically imagining her apocalyptic narratives.

Museum Staff

Jo Burke, Director
Peter Olson, Assistant Director
Shelby Edelmam, Program Assistant

Extra Help Preparator

Ari Norris


Museum Assistants

Amanda Baisden
Hannah Beach
Corinne Francis
Devin Gonzalez
Ryan Sarau-Young

Exhibition Advisory Committee

Michael Bennett
Mary-Glynn Boies
Aurore Candier
Jessica Cima
Aleksandra Giza
Nina Rizzo
Richard Siegesmund
Peter Van Ael
Johnson Kwame Wor (Student Representative)

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 X
@NIUArtmuseum

Parking on campus is now administered through [AIMS Mobile Pay](#) or parking pay stations available in the [visitor pay lot](#) located at 200 Carroll Ave., and at accessible parking spaces 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/

Museum News & Staff Announcements:

We are pleased to announce that the NIU Art Museum received \$10,000 for general operations support from the Illinois Arts Council for FY25. We would also like to congratulate Peter as he celebrates his 30th anniversary here at NIU. Shelby will be going on parental leave beginning in mid-January through mid-April.

Museum assistant announcements: Hannah Beach passed her art education exit portfolio earlier in the fall semester, which will now allow her to student teach at Guilford High School and Rockford Environmental Science Academy (RESA) Middle School in Rockford this spring. Corinne Francis is planning to create more personal artwork over winter break to bulk up her children's illustration portfolio.

NIU Art Museum Collection Spotlight by Peter Olson: Douglas Binder



Douglas Binder, "Magic Object," triptych, 1970, acrylic on canvas, 84" x 206".
Gift of M.A. Lipschultz, 2023.58-60.

In the mid-1980s, a large donation of artwork came to NIU from Chicagoan M.A. Lipschultz. Among these were 61 paintings and drawings by British artist Douglas Binder (b. 1941). Lipschultz had been impressed by Binder and acquired an amount of his work sufficient to fuel exhibitions in Chicago and Minneapolis in the 1970s. At that time, some pieces were acquired for the collections of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as private collections. The remaining 61 pieces went into storage until they were donated to NIU where they were safely put into storage yet again.

I came upon this cache when I was hired to manage the collection of the NIU Art Museum in 1993. It made an impression on me as well, but at the time, lack of resources prevented me from narrowing my focus to just this (unframed) work and preparing an exhibition of it.

Patiently, these gouache drawings and acrylic paintings waited until 2023, when graduate student John Hosta chose Douglas Binder to be the focus of his capstone research project in art history. The works were re-photographed, measured, condition-reported and interpreted.

Although we remain unsure about the exact personal meaning behind Binder's chosen iconography, many motifs are repeated throughout his work of this period (1968-1972). This repetition both enhances and subverts our attempts at logical interpretation, depending on their context.

Each panel of the triptych has a central protagonist, or "Magic Object" - an effigy or voodoo doll cobbled together with found materials discarded from an industrial landscape and imbued with a childlike sense of magic. We need to engage our imagination and employ dream logic to begin to interpret these surreal paintings. Although this triptych is among Binder's most complex and multicolored works, it is rendered with black outlines and a "paint-by numbers" flatness, suggesting origins in the visual language of comic books. *Continued on page 8...*

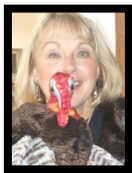
4. Events Calendar & Bus Trips

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025

The Fairy Tale of Wholeness, 5 p.m.

Associate professor of drawing Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz will facilitate a one-hour workshop that will explore a narrative means of unraveling the internalized personal myths blocking one's pilgrimage toward a more meaningful life. Limited to 20 participants. Call the museum at 815-753-1936 or email artmuseum@niu.edu to register.

Location: Altgeld Hall 125.



Monday, Jan. 27

Virtual Presentation: Making Inks for Printmaking from Plants, 7 p.m.

In this Zoom virtual presentation by printmaking instructor Millicent Kennedy, we will discuss recipes for making your own inks and printable dyes from natural plant materials used specifically in screenprint, but other printmaking methods as well.

Zoom link found on our website's event page.



Tuesday, Jan. 28

From World's Fair to National Park: Works in Progress, Noon

This talk by professor of art history Rebecca Houze considers the built environment of Yellowstone, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks, three of the earliest to be established in the United States. As unique expressions of national identity, the parks were designed into the landscape and promoted to tourists by transcontinental railroad companies with sophisticated programs of advertising and emerging corporate identity.

Location: Altgeld Hall 125.



Wednesday, Jan. 29

Reproduction Gone Awry: Doubled Mother and Estranged Child in the Work of Bharti Kher, 5 p.m.

Associate professor of art history Sarah Evans will talk about British (currently living in India) contemporary painting, sculpture and installation artist Bharti Kher in this illustrated lecture.

Location: Altgeld Hall 125.

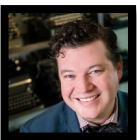


Tuesday, Feb. 4

Hope Machines—New Protest Theatre by "Born Free" South Africans, Noon

Join us for an illustrated lecture by assistant professor of theatre history, literature and criticism Gibson Cima as he discusses recent work by young South African theatre makers grappling with their country's colonial and apartheid past.

Location: Altgeld Hall 125.



Thursday, Feb. 13

Cut to the Core, 5 p.m.

Illustrated lecture by assistant professor of visual communications Maria Grillo on building trust in yourself as a visual communicator and earning the trust of others. As a new full-time hire in the School of Art and Design, Maria is also the president, owner and creative director of Grillo Group, LLC which is a communications design collaborative based in Chicago serving business, education, healthcare, not for profit and cultural institutions.

Location: Altgeld Hall 125.



Public programs are subject to change, addition and cancellation. Visit online for the latest programming details and to register for virtual events, niu.edu/artmuseum/events.

Saturday, Feb. 22

Get-on-the-Bus Trip: Chicago Museums/Art Centers

Join us for our upcoming bus trip to the National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA) for their exhibition "Semilla: Cecilia Beaven, Solo Exhibition," the Hyde Park Art Center's (HPAC) "Cecilia Beaven: Flickering Cocoon," "The 50th: An Anniversary Exhibition" at the Smart Museum of Art (SMA) and "Theaster Gates: When Clouds Roll Away" celebrating Johnson Publishing (Ebony and Jet) at the ReBuild Foundation in Chicago!

Payment and registration deadline: Thursday, Jan. 30. Lunch in Pilsen, dinner in Hyde Park on your own.

Departure: 9 a.m. **Expected return:** 9 p.m.

Cost: \$55 NIU Art Museum members, \$60 seniors/students, \$65 nonmembers.



Thursday, March 20

Opening Reception, 5 to 7 p.m.

Join us for our opening reception of **Dream Job, Phantasmagraphics: The Early Psychedelic Work of Douglas Binder** and **A Deb Sokolow Sampler: 20 Years of Speculative Drawing**.

Refreshments will be provided.

Location: Art Museum Galleries

Friday, April 4

Get-on-the-Bus Trip: Conservation Center, Print Study Room and West Loop Galleries

Join us for our upcoming bus trip to the Chicago Conservation Center, Print Study Room and West Loop Galleries.

Payment and registration deadline: Thursday, March 6. Lunch on own nearby the Conservation Center after our tour.

Departure: 8:15 a.m. **Expected return:** 8 p.m.

Cost: \$50 NIU Art Museum members, \$55 seniors/students, \$60 nonmembers.



Wednesday, June 25—Sunday, June 29

Get-on-the-Bus Overnighter: South Central Iowa Art, Architecture and History

Join us for our upcoming 4 nights, 5 days extended trip to Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, Amana, Grinnell, Des Moines, West Branch and Davenport.

Payment and registration deadline: Friday, May 23.

Early bird discounted registration deadline: Friday, April 25.

Cost: \$\$\$, more info soon via our iContact eblast and on our website.



Thursday, July 10

Members Only: Hop-in-the-Van Trip: Eleanor Spiess Ferris at Oakton Community College Museum

Join us for the opening reception of "Eleanor Spiess Ferris: Drinking the Moon" at Oakton Community College from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Prior to the reception, we will tour their sculpture and campus collection. Earlier in the day, we will stop at the Evanston Art Center and the Block Museum at Northwestern.

Payment and registration deadline: Thursday, July 3.

Departure: 10 a.m. **Expected return:** 10 p.m. Meal cost on your own lunch in Evanston, and food available at the reception at Oakton.

Cost: \$50. Limited capacity. Be sure to call today to reserve your seat!



*Additional bus trip information will be sent via the iContact eblast and can be found on our website when available. Please call the museum to register for bus trips or with any questions.

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Preregistration for virtual and in-person events may be required.

Please phone 815-753-1936 or visit online for Zoom virtual live streaming details: niu.edu/artmuseum/events.

Thank You!

Creative, technical support, art transport and reception assistance: Robert Banke, Andy Dolan, Millicent Kennedy, NIU Marketing and Creative Services, Ari Norris, Nina Rizzo, Donee and Mariano Spizzirri, **Sophia Varcados**, and Supplied Solutions.

Funding partners: The Illinois Arts Council Agency, The NIU Arts and Culture Fee, WNIU/WNIJ and Shaw Media.

Thanks as well to staff and crew: Amanda Baisden, Hannah Beach, **Jo Burke**, **Shelby Edelmann**, Corinne Francis, Devin Gonzalez, Peter Olson, Ryan Sarau-Young.

Photos from Seeing Each Other: Portraits in Time and Place;
Hold Still: Portraits from the Permanent Collection; and
Homage to Humanity: Portrait Prints by Sidney Chafetz.



Artists featured in "Seeing Each Other: Portraits in Time and Place" from left to right: Danielle Piloto (2), Dana Major, Dave Menard and Dean Krueger.



Various portraits by long-time DeKalb community member and artist Dale Osterle for "Hold Still: Portraits from the Permanent Collection."



Jewish American artist Sidney Chafetz devoted his life to education and the arts. Featured in "Homage to Humanity: Portrait Prints by Sidney Chafetz" are several of his social and literary heroes.

Opening reception photos from the CVPA Faculty Biennial and New to the Collection exhibitions.



6. Sustaining Members

Sponsors

Michael Barnes and Kryssi Staikidis
Fred Barnhart
Gary and Marilyn Bellert
Rudolf and Ingeborg Bisanz
Molly Burke
Peggy Burke
Susan Carter and Robert Sabin
Gary and Dee Coover
Michael and Elizabeth Denius
Matthew and Shelby Edelmam
Paul and Elizabeth Eisen
Julia and Dominick Fauci
Edward and Donna Flanagan
Donna Gable and Ken Rodd
Patricia Galvan
Stephen and Deborah Haliczzer
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Sandra J. Little
David and Marcie McMahon
Jerry and Miriam Meyer
Dianne and James Moss
Nicholas Noe
Peter Olson
Patricia Perkins
Diane Rodgers
Maureen Russell
Linda Schwarz
Dan and Virginia Seymour
Terri Smialek
Charles Larry and Emmylou Studier
Jim Thomas
Ruth Anne Tobias
Patricia S. Vary
Lynne Waldeland
Steve Walt
Christine Worley and Peter Hood

Patrons

Derryl Block
Mary-Glynn and John Boies
Deborah and Colin Booth
John and Nancy Castle
Patricia and Stephen Faivre
Robert Fleisher and Darsha Primich
Norden Gilbert and Ben Thomas
Richard F. Grott
Catherine Koemptgen
Ronald G. Klein
Carol Luc
Bryan Perry
Brian Reis and Mary LaClair
Sally Stevens
Linda Tillis
Christo R. Watson

Benefactors

Renie Adams
Michael and Elaine Bennett
Gerald and Cheryl Brauer
Jo Burke
Richard and Thecla Cooler
Lee S. Holt
Jerry and Annette Johns
Anne C. Kaplan
Paul and Katherine Kassel
Richard and Kathleen Katz
Gretchen Moore
Elizabeth Plotnick
Catherine Raymond and Alan Potkin
Rich Rice and John Calimee

Member listing as of Dec. 12, 2024.



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.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Membership Renewals

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

Change of Address

Notify the museum if you have moved to ensure that you continue to receive issues of our Museum Notes newsletter.

For those wishing to make certain of our future, please consider donating to the Friends of the NIU Art Museum Endowment Fund care of the DeKalb County Community Foundation dekalbccf.org.



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 "Friend" 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 "Museum Notes" newsletter.	■	■	■	■
Recognition in "Museum Notes."	■	■	■	
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"
Dale Osterle, "Green Dreams"
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"
Susanne Doremus, "Untitled"
David Driesbach, "The Pied Piper"
Larry Gregory, "Conkles Hollow, Ohio"
John Pitman Weber, "Distant Soweto"
Peter Van Ael, "Antwerp Central Station"

*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.

Name _____

Payment

Check enclosed \$ _____.

Address _____

Please charge: Visa Mastercard Discover AmEx Expiration _____ CVV _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Account number _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Name on card _____

Email _____

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, *continued from page 3*

The viewer is confronted by what Hosta calls a “psychedelic buffet” or imagery, where “...spectral figures stand looming like sentinels who guard the secrets of another world or who are ready to do combat with those who are ill-prepared to receive and comprehend them.”

With the momentum of Hosta's research and documentation, an exhibition is now planned for the spring of 2025 to be titled, “Phantasmagraphica,” a reference to both the inventive and unsettling imagery and the bold graphic style with which it is depicted. One panel of the triptych, along with a preparatory gouache drawing, will be included in the small exhibition.



Douglas Binder, “The Tower,” 1970. Gouache, (18 x 21 in.). Collection of the NIU Art Museum 2023.13. Gift of M.A. Lipschultz.

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, the Friends of the NIU Art Museum, the NIU Art and Culture Fee; and the College of Visual and Performing Arts' Season Presenting Sponsor Shaw Media and WNIJ/WNIU.



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

NIU Art Museum
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1425 W. Lincoln Hwy.
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DeKalb, Illinois 60115
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niu.edu/artmuseum

