



Northern Illinois University

NIU Art Museum

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Amerimanga! Convention and Expression **on exhibition at the Northern Illinois University Art Museum**

DeKalb, IL – ***Amerimanga! Convention and Expression***, Northern Illinois University Art Museum's exhibition **opens March 24** and showcases the creation of American comics that have been aesthetically influenced by Japanese manga **on display through May 22, 2015**. Join us for a public **reception for the exhibition, Tuesday, March 31 from 4:30 – 6 p.m** at the Museum in Altgeld Hall. Stay to hear co-curator and author Josh Elder present a public lecture, **"The Manga Revolution: How Japanese Anime and Manga Changed the American Comic Industry Forever"** at 6 p.m. in **Altgeld Hall, room 315**. This group show featuring artists **Jen Brazas, Svetlana Chmakova, Josh Elder and Erich Owen, Brion Foulke, Ron Kaulfersch and Mike Schwark, M. Alice LeGrow, Jill Thompson, Martheus Wade and Janet Stone Wade, and Adam Warren** explores how they developed their own individual styles that merge the conventions of manga and traditional American comics. The reception for this exhibition has been graciously sponsored by the Office of the University President in conjunction with displays of NIU student artwork in the Offices of the President and Provost.

Amerimanga! illustrates the creative development of contemporary comics and demonstrates how these artists tell their own unique stories through the use of this cross-cultural medium. Manga is a comic art form that emerged in Japan. Its origins are unclear yet some scholars suggest manga emerged as a combination of Japanese and American popular culture exchange through U.S. soldiers during the Second World War. As manga became popular in the United States during the early 21st century original English language manga produced was dubbed *Amerimanga* to denote its U.S. origin. The exhibition includes original, pre-production, and published works of American artists including concept art drawings, layouts, inked pieces, and final products illustrating the process of creation.

This exhibition is co-curated by Kerry Freedman, Professor of Art + Design Education, NIU; and author Josh Elder, President and Founder, Reading with Pictures. Additional support for this exhibition came in part from the Office of Online Program Development and Support, eLearning Services, the Division of Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development; and the Division of Art + Design Education, NIU; the Illinois Arts Council Agency; the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, NIU Foundation; the Friends of the NIU Art Museum; and the Office of the University President, NIU.

The exhibition is on display at NIU Art Museum through May 22, 2015. Visitors may find more information about this exhibition, associated events, and educational programming by visiting www.niu.edu/artmuseum or calling 815-753-1936.

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Associated Events and Educational Programming

Public Art Receptions in Altgeld Hall

Tuesday, March 31, 4:30 - 6 p.m., 2nd, 3rd Floors Altgeld Hall, and Art Museum

Amerimanga! Convention and Expression reception and student artwork on display in the President's and Provost's Office galleries. Reception sponsored by the Office of the President.

"The Manga Revolution: How Japanese Anime and Manga Changed the American Comic Industry Forever," Lecture presented by Josh Elder

Tuesday, March 31, 6 - 7 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

Lecture presented by Josh Elder, author, graphic novelist, syndicated cartoonist, and founder of Reading with Pictures, an organization that advocates the role of comics in reading and education.

Artist Talk with Jill Thompson

Tuesday, April 7, 5 - 6 p.m., Visual Arts Building, Jack Arends Hall, room 102

Artist Talk presented by Jill Thompson, a multiple Eisner Award winner named the National Cartoonist Society's 2011 Best Comic Book Artist.

Film Screening of *Spirited Away*, Hayao Miyazaki's 2001 Anime Feature

Tuesday, May 12, 7:15 - 9:30 p.m., Montgomery Hall Auditorium

Anime classic and coming of age tale of a ten-year old girl's magical journey to a new neighborhood where she must save her parents after they encounter a witch.

Film Screening of *Lone Wolf & Cub: Sword of Vengeance*, 1972

Wednesday, May 13, 7:15-9:30 p.m., Montgomery Hall Auditorium

A dramatic film directed by Kenji Misumi based on the award-winning manga graphic novel which depicts a wandering Ronin assassin for-hire with his young son in Edo period Japan.

Images



Postcard Image: *Amerimanga!*, image from [Mail Order Ninja](#), Josh Elder, Erich Owen, and TOKYOPOP, Inc.

High-resolution images will be sent as a separate attachment.

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Also on display

NIU Art Museum's spring exhibition series resonates around themes of cross cultural influence between Japanese and European and American fine art and popular culture. Also on display through May 22, 2015, *Traditions Transfigured: The Noh Masks of Bidou Yamaguchi* presents viewers with contemporary works by Noh mask maker Bidou Yamaguchi. The Museum hopes to explore through these exhibitions our shrinking world and the windows through which we examine different cultures as well as emulate them. The two exhibitions demonstrate cross-influence and broadened perspectives as artists both embrace tradition and experiment with convention while seeking out their individual expressions.

About the NIU Art Museum

The NIU Art Museum contributes to the University's educational curriculum and provides opportunities for art education and cultural enrichment throughout the community. The Museum serves to educate, preserve, exhibit, and enlighten by balancing the challenges of contemporary art with the riches of traditional media for a comprehensive examination of visual culture.

The exhibitions and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, NIU Foundation; and the Friends of the NIU Art Museum.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday through Friday 10 am – 5 pm and Saturday 12 – 4 pm; by appointment for group tours which can be arranged by visiting www.niu.edu/artmuseum or calling 815-753-1936. Exhibitions are open to the public and admission is **FREE**.

The NIU Art Museum is located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Castle Drives on the campus of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Parking is available in the Carroll Avenue Visitor's Pay Lot; handicapped and metered spots in front of Altgeld Hall; and during public receptions and programs in Lot 3 northeast of Gilbert Drive and College Avenue. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 7 p.m. weeknights.

More information about the exhibitions, events, and educational programming at the NIU Art Museum may be found by visiting www.niu.edu/artmuseum or calling 815-753-1936.

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Altgeld Hall 116, First Floor, West End

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www.niu.edu/artmuseum