



Northern Illinois University

NIU Art Museum

Press Release

Contact: Stuart W. Henn, Coordinator of Marketing and Education
815-753-1936 / email: shenn1@niu.edu

For Immediate Release

Upcoming Exhibitions Explore the Art Deco Era at The Northern Illinois University Art Museum

A glimpse of Art Deco style and sophistication in America between the Wars

DeKalb, IL – This spring the Northern Illinois University Art Museum opens a major exhibition suite that explores the exuberance and glamour of the Art Deco period with two full exhibitions and two smaller studies.

Between the Wars: Contrasts, Parallels, Shifts and Patterns and ***Beyond Gatsby: Common Luxury in American Art Deco*** chart the stylistic expressions and transitions that occur in American Art Deco style alongside *"The Chicagoan": a Periodical of the Era* and *Deco and Art Moderne Architecture in Illinois*, two studies presenting elements unique to Chicago and Illinois from the era between the Wars. Visitors will enjoy seeing a wide range of items from the period including numerous decorative objects, furniture, jewelry, fashionable dresses and hats, posters, prints, magazines and advertisements, as well as architectural examples all highlighting the varied stylistic ways America adopted and adapted the movement over the course of its popularity. The exhibitions run April 7th through May 20, 2016 with a series of public lectures, programs, and film screenings related to the shows.

A reception hosted by the Office of the President will celebrate the exhibitions' opening and new student work in the Presidential office galleries on Thursday, April 7th in Altgeld Hall, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. During the reception, help us welcome back to campus previous NIU First Lady **Barbara Cole Peters**, guest co-curator of *Between the Wars: Contrasts, Parallels, Shifts and Patterns*. Join Mrs. Peters and Dr. John Peters for her public remarks on **"Art Deco and Women's Fashion" on Thursday, April 7, at 6:15 p.m.** during the public reception. Visitors to the reception may enjoy access to current NIU President Doug Baker's office galleries located on Altgeld Hall's third floor to view the student-curated work now on display.



Top to Bottom: Leonetto Cappiello, Cognac Monnet, Poster, 1927, (79 x 51); courtesy Chicago Center for The Print. Two-Slice Toastmaster Model 1B3. Walters-Genter Corporation, Minneapolis, MN, c. 1932, Heavy chrome, (9 x 6 x 7); courtesy Elgin History Museum.

– MORE –

About the NIU Art Museum Art Deco Exhibitions

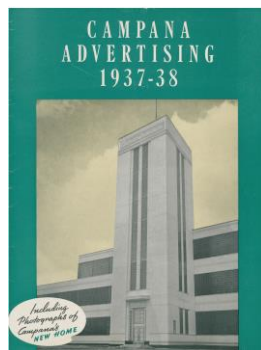
Between the Wars: Contrasts, Parallels, Shifts and Patterns explores the stylistic motivations, technical innovations, and social transitions during the period as expressed through vintage selections of advertising posters, illustrations, and women's fashion. The exhibition is co-curated by Barbara Cole Peters who also previously guest curated the NIU Art Museum exhibitions *Autumn Leaves: a Century of Fall Fashion* in 2010; and *Some Enchanted Evening: 100 Years of Evening Gowns* in 2007; and *Little Black Dress* also in 2007 at the former Nehring Gallery in DeKalb. Mrs. Peters generously loaned several dresses from her personal fashion collection to the exhibition. ***Beyond Gatsby: Common Luxury in American Art Deco*** demonstrates how Art Deco styling permeated every aspect of American life, from household objects to magazine ads, from furniture and jewelry to Chicago's 1933 World Fair. Curated by graduate students in the NIU Certificate in Museum Studies. The certificate is designed to prepare students for careers in museums, archives, and other institutions that work with artistic, cultural, and historical materials through study and practice of curatorial skills. Students included: Carmin Berchiolly, Rebeka Jacobson, Rae Slowik, Markie Striegel, and Keith Ulrich with instructor Peter van Ael. The Certificate is jointly administered by the College of Education, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts. ***The Chicagoan: a Periodical of the Era*** includes commentary on samplings from an urbane lifestyle magazine that proclaimed - and reinforced - Chicago's cultural import, 1926-1935. Finally, ***Deco and Art Moderne Architecture in Illinois*** focuses on local landmarks curated by graduate students in the NIU Certificate in Museum Studies.

Lenders include several private collectors; The Barbara Cole Peters Fashion Collection; Bartlett History Museum; Blackwell Museum of Educational History at NIU; Chicago Center for The Print; Elgin History Museum; Geneva History Museum; the Koehnline Museum of Art at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines; the Midway Village Museum in Rockford; Regional History Center and University Archives at NIU; St. Charles History Museum; and The White Rock Collection in Elgin, Illinois.

About the Office of the President's Student Artwork Display

Two NIU School of Art and Design graduate students, **Corey Stout** and **Kelsea Nichols**, currently serve as curators for the Presidential galleries. Stout and Nichols, with the guidance of studio faculty member Jessica Labatte, are responsible for selecting and hanging student artwork for display in President Baker's office and home. Student artists now on display in the office include NIU Illustration and Graphic Design students: **Sarah Brazeau, Haley Gottardo, Karl Gustafson, Kimberly Kuba, Katie Lavery, Kayla Schlipf, Joe Tallman, and Griffin Thorne.**

Additional Images from the NIU Art Museum's Art Deco Exhibition Suite



Left to Right:
The Chicagoan Cover, Vol. 7, No. 9, July 20, 1929. Copyright: The Quigley Publishing Company, a Division of QP Media, Inc.
Campana Advertising Campaign, 1938-39 catalogue of toiletries, courtesy Geneva History Museum.

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

– MORE –

Associated Events and Educational Programs

More information about the exhibitions, events, and educational programming at the NIU Art Museum, many of which are free and open to the public, may be found online by visiting www.niu.edu/artmuseum. For questions or to register for events please phone the museum at 815-753-1936 or email the Education Coordinator shenn1@niu.edu.

Thursday, April 7, 5-7 p.m.

Altgeld Hall Art Receptions

First and Third Floors

Sponsored by the Office of the President, featuring performance by the Jazz in Progress Combo at the NIU Art Museum

Thursday, April 7, 6:15-6:30 p.m.

Altgeld 125 (or museum hallway)

"Art Deco and Women's Fashion" - Barbara Cole Peters, guest co-curator

Wednesday, April 13, 5-6 p.m.

Altgeld 315

"Deco Time: How Art Deco Re-Defined

Marketing Watches" - William Briska, President, Elgin Area Historical Society

"Deco In Her Hand: Elgin American Compacts, 1928-1941" - Richard Renner: Chicago Art Deco Society

Monday, April 18, 7-9:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30

Egyptian Theatre, 135 N. Second Street, DeKalb

Top Hat Film Screening and Discussion

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers' 1935 Comedy, Musical, Romance; Dialog led by NIU Professors Tim Ryan and Scott Balcerzak. \$7/\$5

Tuesday, April 19, 7-9:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30

Egyptian Theatre, 135 N. Second Street, DeKalb

Blonde Venus Film Screening and Discussion

Marlene Dietrich/Josef von Sternberg 1932 drama, no rating (pre-code); Dialog led by NIU Professors Scott Balcerzak, Paula Frasz, Tim Ryan. \$7/\$5

Wednesday, April 20, 5:00-5:50 p.m.

Altgeld 315

"International Influence: Art Deco, Illinois, and the 1933 Century of Progress Exhibition"

- Rebecca Houze, Professor, Art History, NIU School of Art and Design

Monday, April 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Altgeld 315

"Jazz and Experimentation in the Concert Music of Art Deco America"

- Brian J. Hart, Professor, Music History, NIU School of Music

Wednesday, April 27, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Art Deco in Chicago Get-On-The-Bus Trip

Chicago Architecture Foundation Tour and Lunch at Ceres Café. **Payment and Registration by April 8. Limit 15 people.** NIU Art Museum Member \$45; Non-Member Adult \$60; Non-Member Student/Senior \$55.

Saturday, May 7, 12-6 p.m.

Open Late! Extended Hours for ARTIGRAS!

The Annual DeKalb and NIU Celebration of the Arts

Thursday, May 12, 12:10-12:50 p.m.

NIU Art Museum

"Artistic Highlights in the Deco Suite of

Exhibitions" - Informal Gallery Talk led by Jo Burke, Director

Tuesday, May 17, 12:10-12:50 p.m.

NIU Art Museum

"The Chicagoan: Style and Sophistication in

the Heartland" - Informal Gallery Talk led by Stuart Henn, Coordinator

Thursday, May 19, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Art Deco in the Fox Valley Get-On-The-Bus Trip

Architectural landmarks in Elgin, St. Charles, Geneva, and Aurora including tour of The Paramount Theatre.

Payment and Registration by April 28. NIU Art Museum Member \$30; Non-Member Adult \$45; Non-Member Student/Senior \$40.

Thursday-Monday, June 2-6

"Deco, Detroit, and Dynamism" Get-On-The-Bus-Over-Nighter

Join us on this four night trip to Detroit's Art Deco Destinations. **\$\$\$\$** Early Bird Discount Payment and Registration due by April 8. **Limited Space!** Call 815-753-1936 for full details and pricing.

— MORE —

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 Friends of the NIU Art Museum; and the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, NIU Foundation.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 12 noon – 4 p.m.; or by appointment for group tours. Exhibitions are open to the public and admission is **FREE**, but donations are always appreciated.

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.

###



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Art Museum

to educate, preserve, exhibit, and enlighten

Altgeld Hall 116, First Floor, West End
1425 W. Lincoln Hwy., Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115 / 815-753-1936
www.niu.edu/artmuseum