



Northern Illinois University

NIU Art Museum

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Spring 2017 Exhibition Series ***Hand in Hand: The Visual Arts as a Means of Social and Political Propaganda, Protest and Commentary***

DeKalb, IL – This spring the Northern Illinois University Art Museum presents an exhibition suite exploring the nuanced ways artists respond to their social and political landscapes using visual language and hyperbole to critique, valorize and satirize the events and subjects of their times—often making us grimace and laugh in the process. *Hand in Hand: The Visual Arts as a Means of Social and Political Propaganda, Protest and Commentary* is a themed series of four separate exhibitions that probe how artists address the subjects of politics, economics, war, power, and national identity; lampoon regular commonplace issues; and represent state propaganda.



Detail of Honoré Daumier, *Je ne te dirai pas vas te faire...sucré! Je te dirai vas te faire cuire!* (*I won't tell you to go and get lost, sugar...I'll tell you to go and "get cooked"*), 1839. Lithograph on newsprint, (14 x 10 in). Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, gift of Sidney and Vivian Kaplan.

Three exhibitions, *"What a Frightful Spectacle!"*, *Theoretical Mockery*, and *Over the Top to Victory* open early on March 28, 2017 with a final student-curated show, *A Tale of Donkeys and Elephants; Satire with the Wink of a Fox*, opening **Thursday, April 6 with a public reception from 5 to 6:40 p.m. at the NIU Art Museum galleries**. These exhibitions run through May 20, 2017 with a series of public lectures, programs, and film screenings related to the shows.

The works on view at the Art Museum range from Honoré Daumier's 19th century satirical lithographs, the 1960s tongue-in-cheek woodblock prints of Sidney Chafetz, as well as a survey of political cartoons that are part and parcel of the American experience and propaganda posters from America's World War I home front. ***"What a Frightful Spectacle!"*: Lithographs of Honoré Daumier** surveys Daumier's satirical observations of aristocrats, politicians and the 'average Joe' caught up in the tumultuous civic transformations of 19th century Paris. ***Theoretical Mockery: Satirical Prints by Sidney Chafetz*** examines Chafetz's prints that often incorporated puns, jokes, and humor to satirize subjects from current political events and his life on a Midwestern college campus. While ***Over the Top to Victory!*** presents government-sponsored posters issued during the First World War with propaganda images from the early 20th century.

Northern Illinois University's Interdisciplinary Certification of Graduate Study in Museum Studies students in Art 656: Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation curated ***A Tale of Donkeys and Elephants; Satire with the Wink of a Fox*** with Instructor Peter Van Ael. This exhibition presents political cartoons that have been used since colonial times to succinctly express, in visual form, differing points of view on complex socio-political concerns in hopes of influencing opinion and action.

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Additional Images



Top Left to Right: Honoré Daumier, *Je ne te dirai pas vas te faire...sucré! Je te dirai vas te faire cuire!* (*I won't tell you to go and get lost, sugar...I'll tell you to go and "get cooked"*), 1839. Lithograph on newsprint, (14 x 10 in.). Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, gift of Sidney and Vivian Kaplan.

Sidney Chafetz, *Plakart*, 1963. Woodcut, (36.5 x 22.5 in.). The NIU Art Museum Collection, gift of Arthur Lipschultz.

Bottom Left to Right: J. C. Leyendecker, *U.S.A. Bonds – Third Liberty Loan Campaign*. Printed by the American Lithographic Co., N.Y., 1917. (30 x 20 inches). The Regional History Center and University Archive Collections at Founders Memorial Library, Northern Illinois University.

Joe Parrish, *Trying to See Who Can Get to Him First*, 1954. Ink on illustration board (14 x 14 in.) The NIU Art Museum Collection, Anonymous Gift. Copyright Chicago Tribune, 1954.

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

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Associated Events and Educational Programs

More information about the NIU Art Museum exhibitions, events, and educational programming may be found online by visiting niu.edu/artmuseum.

Thursday, April 6

Public Reception 5-6:40 p.m., NIU Art Museum

Visual Commentary:

The Art of American Political Cartoons

Lecture by Kerry Freedman, Professor and Division Head, Art + Design Education.

6:45-7:30 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

Monday, April 10

Bite of the Print: A Medium Well Suited for Social Commentary

View prints from the Collection with Museum Assistant Director Peter Olson.

2-3 p.m., Art Museum Galleries

Wednesday, April 12

Roundtable Discussion with the *Northern Star* Cartoonists

5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

Thursday, April 13

Daumier's France: Politics, Satire and Sociability

Lecture with NIU's Emma Kubly, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Brian Sandberg, Associate Professor, Department of History and Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

6:15-7:30 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

Wednesday, April 19

The Evolution of Editorial Cartooning: Changes in Media and Messages

Guest lecture by Dr. Edward Lordan, Professor, Department of Communication Studies, West Chester University, PA

5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

Saturday, April 22

Color Your Politics

Become an illustrator and color cartoons from the exhibition! All ages, children under 9 with supervision. Pre-registration required.

2-4 p.m., Art Museum Galleries

Monday, April 24

Eugene V. Debs and the Fight for Free Speech in World War One

Lecture by Ernest Freeberg, Distinguished Professor of Humanities, University of Tennessee. Presented by the NIU Department of History.

6-7 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

Tuesday, April 25

Promoting Democracy: The Progressives, Women's Suffrage, and the Decline of the Political Machine

Lecture with Matthew J. Streb, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science.

5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

Wednesday, May 3

Get-on-the-Bus Excursion Vonnegut's Odyssey and the Ed Paschke Art Center

View *Vonnegut's Odyssey* at the National Veterans Art Museum. 1-8:30 p.m.

\$\$, Pre-registration required, **RSVP by 4/27**.

Thursday, May 11

The Partisan Duopoly in US House Elections: An Analysis of Minor Party Failure

Lecture with Scot Schraufnagel, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science.

5-6 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

Thursday, May 18

***Inspector General* starring Danny Kaye**

Musical comedy set in the period of the First French Empire. (1949, 100 minutes.)

Doors open 6:30 p.m., screening 7-9:30 p.m., Egyptian Theatre, 135 N. Second St., DeKalb
\$7 Adults, \$5 Museum Members/Students.

Recurring Gallery Talks

Art Museum Galleries

Curator's Talks with Museum Assistant Director Peter Olson and Graduate Assistant Millicent Kennedy
Saturday, April 8 from 1-2 p.m.

Thursday, May 11 from noon-1 p.m.

Docent Tours with the student curators of *A Tale of Donkeys and Elephants*

Thursday, April 13 from noon-1 p.m.

Thursday, April 27 from noon-1 p.m.

For questions, more information, or to reserve your Get-on-the-Bus seat please phone the NIU Art Museum at 815-753-1936. Programs are subject to additions and changes.

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Lenders: Artwork and objects for the exhibitions are on loan from the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site; Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum; Colonel Robert R. McCormick Research Center at the First Division Museum; the Geneva History Museum; the Library of Congress; the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University; Midway Village Museum; Northern Illinois University Founders Memorial Library's Regional History Center and University Archive Collections and the Rare Books and Special Collections; the NIU Art Museum Collection; and private lenders.

Support for the *Hand in Hand* exhibition suite: Additional support came from Northern Illinois University's: Art History Division in the School of Art and Design; the Department of Communications; the Department of History; and the Interdisciplinary Certificate of Graduate Study in Museum Studies and students in Art 656: Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation course with Instructor Peter Van Ael.

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.

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.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday noon – 4 p.m.; and 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 main campus of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Parking is available in the Carroll Avenue Visitor's Pay Lot and metered spots in front of Altgeld Hall. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weeknights.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Art Museum

to educate, preserve, exhibit, and enlighten

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www.niu.edu/artmuseum

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