



## Northern Illinois University

*NIU Art Museum*

### Press Release

Contact: Stuart W. Henn, Coordinator of Marketing and Education  
Art Museum | College of Visual and Performing Arts  
815-753-1936 | [shenn1@niu.edu](mailto:shenn1@niu.edu)  
[www.niu.edu/artmuseum](http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum)

For Immediate Release

### **Northern Illinois University Art Museum opens two exhibitions in its Winter Transparency Suite.**

DeKalb, IL – The Northern Illinois University Art Museum’s Winter 2018-2019 Transparency Suite explores transparency formally and contextually in contemporary art as well as traditional visual culture with reverse glass paintings from Burma. The two exhibitions open November 15 with a public opening reception at 5 p.m. and run through February 15, 2019.

*Transparent Factors in Form and Content* presents literal and figurative interpretations and investigations along the spectrum of transparency, translucency and opacity. Artists in the exhibition explore the capacity of “transparent” mediums like air, water, light and glass to clarify and reveal, or to obscure and distort (sometimes simultaneously). Some artists see visual phenomena as metaphors for the openness, disclosure and accessibility (or lack thereof) in practices of wielding authority, making decisions or disseminating information. Artists include: Tom Burtonwood, Caleb Cole, Nicole Czapinski, Nancy Fewkes, Carrie Fonder, Shawna Gibbs, Gibson + Recoder, Thomas Gondek, Maki Hajikano, Karen Hillier, Suda House, Ernest Jolicouer, Nicole Lenzi, Stephanie McMahon, Christopher McNulty, Jeroen Nelemans, Robert Rauschenberg, Thomas Skomski, Vanessa Viruet, Andy Warhol and Katie Waugh.

*Vanishing Art from Myanmar: The Buddhist Reverse Glass Painting Tradition* explores the complex Buddhist tradition as it is revealed through the work of some artists from the last village in Burma dedicated to the reverse glass painting technique and tradition known since the art form’s introduction to the region in the 18th century. Curated by Dr. Catherine Raymond, Director, Center for Burma Studies and Professor of Art History and presented in conjunction with the International Symposium “Looking Through The Glass: The Asian Reverse Glass Painting Traditions” on November 16, 2018. Raymond’s research was funded by a Rakow Grant from the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY.

As part of this suite, the Art Museum’s calendar of events presents thematic programs, artist lectures, informal curator talks, and a lunch brown-bag for visitors to engage with visiting artists, scholars, and the works in a relaxed gallery setting.

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## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 13  
**“Gibson + Recoder: Transparent Processes”**  
Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder  
Artist Slide Presentation  
5-6 p.m., Altgeld 125

Thursday, November 15  
**Public Opening Reception**  
Transparency Suite  
5-7 p.m., NIU Art Museum

Friday, November 16  
**“Looking through the Glass:  
Asian Reverse Glass Painting Traditions”**  
International Symposium organized by the  
Center for Burma Studies  
**Public welcome**  
9 a.m.-noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m., Altgeld 315

**Galleries closed for Thanksgiving**  
November 21-27

Friday, December 7  
Get-On-The-Bus Trip  
**The Chicago Imagists: Hairy Who?**  
Chicago and Elmhurst  
Several works by this Chicago artist group  
involved the reverse glass painting process.  
Exhibits at The Art Institute and Elmhurst Art  
Museum. Special tour, EAM, with artist Suellen  
Rocca, member of the Hairy Who.  
9 a.m.-6 p.m., \$\$ Payment and Registration by  
November 30.

**Galleries closed for winter break**  
December 15-January 14

Saturday, January 19  
**Museum Members Private Event**  
Join Today! Watch for your invitation.

Wednesday, January 23  
**“Layers of Meaning”**  
Informal Curator Talk with Peter Olson  
12:10-12:50 p.m., NIU Art Museum

Wednesday, January 30  
**“Idolizing Images”**  
Jeroen Nelemans  
Artist Slide Presentation  
5-6 p.m., Altgeld 125

Monday, February 4  
**“Open Window”**  
Stephanie McMahon  
Artist Slide Presentation  
6:15-7 p.m., Jack Arends Hall 103

Friday, February 8  
**“The Genesis of a Project: Reverse Glass  
Painting in Southeast Asia”**  
Brown bag luncheon sponsored by the Center  
for Southeast Asian Studies with Catherine  
Raymond, Director, Center for Burma Studies  
Noon – 1 p.m.; Campus Life 100

## Exhibition Support

Artwork and objects for Transparent Factors in Form and Content and Vanishing Art from Myanmar: The Buddhist Reverse Glass Painting Tradition exhibitions are on loan from the exhibiting artists, the Burma Art Collection at NIU and the NIU Art Museum Collections. Additional support came from the Center for Burma Studies, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and the interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in Museum Studies at NIU.

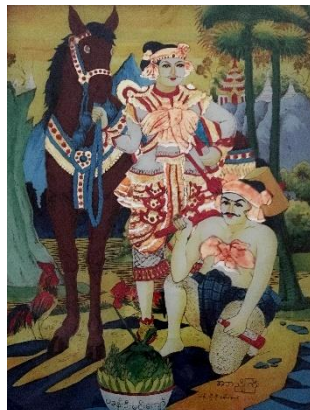


Image left Cover, top to bottom: Maki Hajikano. *Fusion and Flux Series #1*. 2018. Cast glass (14"x3.5"x1.5"). Karen Hillier. *Adelade DeVoe, b. 1849*. 2015-16. Laser-etched vellum and powdered graphite (18"x24"). Katie Waugh. *Interpolations: Sky + Water*. 2016. 120 mm film capture/inkjet print (16x48.25"). Thomas G. Gondek. *Rocker IV*. 1982. Lacquer on Plexiglas (24"x33"x1").

Image right: *Nat U Min Kyaw (Lord Gambler) from Pakhan Kyi and his Companion Mr. Brown*. Artist Soe Aung (Syriam, Myanmar); Late 20th century, Burma/Myanmar; Glass, enamel paint, metallic foil; (19.25" x 15.25 in.). Burma Art Collection. BC2017.01.18.

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## **About the NIU Art Museum**

Serving Campus and Community by Balancing Traditional and Contemporary Art to Explore the Connections Made Through Visual Culture.

Part of the [College of Visual and Performing Arts](#)' vibrant and active arts community on campus, the Northern Illinois University Art Museum is a resource for the NIU campus, local community and beyond. The NIU Art Museum is located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall, on the corner of College Avenue and Castle Drives on the main campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. Parking is available in the Carroll Avenue Visitor Pay Lot and metered spots in front of Altgeld Hall. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weeknights.

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 College of Visual and Performing Arts' Season Presenting Sponsor Shaw Media.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Art Museum**

*College of Visual and Performing Arts*

### **Balancing Traditional and Contemporary Art**

Altgeld Hall 116, First Floor, West End  
1425 W. Lincoln Hwy., Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
815-753-1936  
[niu.edu/artmuseum](http://niu.edu/artmuseum)

### **Gallery Hours**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
Noon – 7 p.m. Thursday  
Noon – 4 p.m. Sunday  
By appointment for group tours.

Exhibitions are free and open to the public.

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