Mt. Vernon and Paducah Get-On-the-Bus Overnighter May 16-19, 2019

Join the Northern Illinois University Art Museum on a small group trip to southern Illinois and northwestern Kentucky for an extended weekend of good food, local history, fine art, and glorious craft, with a focus on fine art quilts.

We are heading down to Mt. Vernon to tour the sculpture park and galleries of the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts with a daytrip to Paducah to visit the National Quilt Museum and to attend the Lower Town Art and Music Festival.

Midday Thursday, we will depart, stopping for a short visit at the McLean County Arts Center in Bloomington to view exhibits of fiber work by Cathy Hsiao and a juried show of emerging Illinois artists. We will then drive further south to Effingham for a group dinner at the highly acclaimed Firefly Grill. This restaurant is run by a young couple utilizing locally grown produce and bringing an intriguing and sophisticated urban taste to this otherwise rural community.

Another hour or so down the road and we will arrive at our hotel in Mount Vernon, our home for the next three nights. Our hotel has a workout room, as well as indoor/outdoor pool and free popcorn is served in the lobby until 10 p.m.

On Friday, after your complimentary hot breakfast at our hotel, we will head to the Jefferson County Historical Village, an award-winning recreation of life in the 19th century on a site with wooded trails. After our docent tour there we will lunch at the Farmhouse Bakery and Café. We will then visit the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, once the estate of John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell. There we will find an oasis for the arts and the cultural pride of this community.

The Mitchell Museum at Cedarhurst includes several galleries: the Permanent Collection Gallery includes an impressive collection of 19th and 20th century American Art; while their rotating galleries will feature “Tesseract and Geometry: Nancy Rice & Brigham Dimick” a painter and draughtsman who explore architectural space and “Searching for America: Painting, Drawing, Photography & Video” observational work by Mary Ann Michna. Elsewhere on the property is the Beck Family Center with its hands-on gallery and “Wild Things,” featuring the vivid watercolors of Carol Carter. Throughout the 90-acre Cedarhurst property there are seventy-three works of three-dimensional art in the Goldman-Keunz Sculpture Park created by local and regional sculptors of international stature. We will take a guided tour providing information about the Mitchells, and together explore the galleries and work in the sculpture park.

We will have a reservation made for dinner in downtown Mt. Vernon at the RARE Chop House specializing in steak and seafood and offering an extensive wine selection or you can opt to stay close to the hotel
where there are plenty of chain restaurants in the proximity. Our hotel also includes free hot snacks during the manager’s reception. An alternate for some is going to a film at the nearby AMC Classic theatre.

Saturday morning after breakfast, we will make a stop in Metropolis, Illinois for a photo op and too brief visit to the Super Museum before heading to Paducah, Kentucky, an old river town turned arts community, one of six UNESCO Creative Cities in America. When faced with shifting industries and blight, Paducah innovatively invited artists to move in, set up studios, and creatively work to revive the Lower Town district. Paducah is now renowned for its many artist studios and the National Quilt Museum. We will view a series of murals on the floodgates that tell the history of Paducah before visiting the River Discovery Museum, having lunch nearby and then feasting your eyes on the impressive collection of historic and contemporary fine art quilts at the NQM. Personal time needs here will differ so we will provide shuttle service to the Lower Town Art and Music Festival, an artist-run event that serves as a fundraiser for the Yeiser Arts Center. Eventually, all should end up at the LT AMF for an array of local food and beverage vendors, a juried multi-state regional art show, two music stages featuring classical, gospel, blues, world music, jazz and rock ‘n’ roll, and an improvisational workshop (to view or participate in!).

After breakfast and checkout on Sunday, we will head back North with a midday stop in the Bloomington/Normal area where we will visit Bloomington’s Miller Park with its historic pavilion and war memorial and the small but delightful Miller Park Zoo, home of happily breeding snow leopards and red wolf pups. After our respite in the park we will stop in Normal for lunch at the Medici before we venture back home to DeKalb.

The Get-On-The-Bus Overnight Trips of the NIU Art Museum are limited to a small group of explorers. Sites involve steps and uneven trails. Itinerary is subject to change. Please contact Jo Burke for more information and to confirm registration.

May 16-19, 2019
Early Bird Registration Discounts Available Through: March 15 (Members: $425.)
Final Registration Deadline: April 2
Limited group size, space limited.
815.753.1936
www.niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/upcoming.shtml
Registration Form - Three Easy Ways to Register

PHONE your reservation, using your credit card for payment to: (815) 753-1936.
MAIL your completed reservation to: NIU Art Museum, Mt. Vernon Paducah GETBON, 1425 W. Lincoln, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
BRING completed form to the Museum, first floor, west end Allgeld Hall, NIU, DeKalb.

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# Quantity $ Amount
_____ Adult(s) at $734 (only $612 if registered before March 15) per person…………………………………………………

_____ NIU Art Museum Member(s) at $510 (only $425 if registered before March 15) per person……………………………………

_____ Single room supplement at $160 ……………………………………………………………………………………………………

Please reserve _____ person(s) for dinner at RARE in Mt. Vernon on Friday.

All reservations confirmed by payment. TOTAL $ Due: ____________________

Fee includes: Roundtrip transportation between NIU and Mt. Vernon, Illinois with stops in Bloomington/Normal, Effingham and Paducah; 3 nights, double occupancy (including taxes) at a highly rated, recently built national chain hotel in Mt. Vernon with complimentary hot breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; entry to the permanent collection galleries at the Mitchell Museum and Sculpture Garden Tour at Cedarhurst, Jefferson County Historical Village Tour, entry to the River Discovery Center and the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Super Museum in Metropolis and entry to the Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington. $1 donation requested for entry into the Lower Town Art and Music Festival in Paducah.

Dinner on own as a group at Firefly Inn in Effingham on Thursday, $$$. Lunch on own in Mount Vernon and in Paducah, several options available. Option for dinner on own as a group at RARE on Friday, $$$$ Please reserve for this at time of registration for trip if possible. Other restaurant options near hotel. Refrigerator/microwave in room. Hotel Manager’s Kickback free hot food and drink 5:30-7 p.m.; Free pop and popcorn in lobby, 3-10 p.m.

Limited group size as both bus and hotel space is limited. Visit website at www.niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/upcoming.shtml
Final Registration deadline: Tuesday, April 2. Discount Registration deadline: Friday, March 15.

Questions: Jo Burke, Director, NIU Art Museum, (815)753-1936, or via email: jburke2@niu.edu

Name__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

City _________________________________________________________ State ___________  ZIP code  _______________________

E-mail address __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Day Phone ______________________________ Evening Phone (if different) _______________________________

Cel Phone (if different) _____________________________________________

When option is available, I prefer a room with: 1 King Bed _____; 2 Queen Beds_______.

Hotel has indoor/outdoor pool (open 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.) and 24 hr. workout room.

I plan to share my room with (name): ____________________________________________________________________________

_____ I would like to share my room with another traveler, if possible. Please introduce us.

I was particularly attracted to this excursion because of ____________________________________________________________________________.

(This feedback is important for us in planning our trips and in case something on this trip needs to be changed.)

[ ] Check payable to NIU; check number _____________. Charge fee to: [ ] VISA     [ ] MasterCard       [ ] Discover     [ ] American Express

Name as written on credit card: ________________________________________________________________

Account # ____________________________________________ Exp. Date ________________________ CODE ______________

Signature ________________________________________________________________________________

Refunds: Full refunds are given when NIU cancels a program, or when a program with limited enrollment is over-subscribed. Substitutions may be made, without penalty, any time prior to the trip departure. Itinerary is subject to change. Cancellations after April 11 will be refunded if the trip is full and the ticket can be resold.