Spring 2018 Exhibitions

South Asian Traditions and New Directions
This spring’s exhibition series focuses on the art and diverse culture of South Asia. The exhibition suite explores the rich traditional objects, garments and visual traditions from the region as well as presents work by contemporary artists in America tackling present-day themes of cultural influences and immigration. Artist talks, panel discussions, and gallery talks all present individual artists’ perspectives on their work while several of our lectures provide a cultural backdrop for the exhibitions. Finally, our Get-on-the Bus excursions provide a selection of the sights, sounds and tastes of South Asian musical dance performances, religious practices and the region’s cuisine. Please join us this spring for these exhibitions and many events.

Public Receptions

March 27 – May 18
Reclaimed Baggage
Public Reception
Thursday, March 29, 5 – 6:30 p.m., South Galleries
Panel Discussion with artists
6:40 – 8:15 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

April 6 – May 18
All We are Breaking are Stones
Across Space and Time
Public Reception
Thursday, April 5, 5 – 7:30 p.m., North and Rotunda Galleries
Artist Gallery Talk: Shaurya Kumar
6 – 6:30 p.m., Rotunda Gallery
Reclaimed Baggage

Reclaimed Baggage, is a group exhibition of seven South Asian American women artists that reveals layered, complex and powerful expressions of the self and their world. Their work addresses displacement, identity and agency. Migration and globalization play a pivotal role on the formation of identity. Despite overwhelming pressure on women to be the transmitters and upholders of culture, migration is an opportunity for reinventing one’s self as one navigates a new cultural landscape.

In an increasingly polarized world, this exhibition creates opportunities for connection—creating a space for dialog on the formation of identity influenced by globalization. The exhibition brings together artists who either derive inspiration from their cultural background and memories or focus on current challenges navigating two identities. Curator Nirmal Raja said of the exhibition, “I see my curatorial practice as an extension of my art making. This exhibition is particularly close to my heart as these artists hold a mirror to my own work as an artist while demonstrating the richness, complexity and challenges that come with being hyphenated Americans.”


All We are Breaking are Stones

All We are Breaking are Stones is an exhibition of work by Chicago artist Shaurya Kumar who reflects on loss, destruction, iconoclasm and marginalization. The raw materiality of his installations combined with the representation of architectural forms suggest ruin but are layered with notions of transformation and narrative. His subjects, both local and global, focus on imagery and themes of decay and destruction, especially the remains of buildings. These works offer a glimpse into the fate of relics that have succumbed to harsh natural elements, the passage of time and blows of human neglect. Shaurya ponders, what becomes of these landscapes as new meanings are superimposed over older, original histories and their cultures?

Shaurya commented, “I explore the ruins of ancient architecture and territories decimated by urban sprawl, human neglect and even greed. The works reflect on how our past that was once our identity and matter of pride are getting increasingly obviated, mutilated, and sometimes entirely lost.” Shaurya’s exhibition draws reference from two sources—an 18th century poem by Meer Taqui Meer titled, “I am A Citizen of that Ruined Place,” that grieves the loss of Mughal culture in India to invaders and Taliban leader Mullah Omar’s 2001 orders to destroy ancient pre-Islamic Bamiyan Buddha statues. Both sources evoke a sense of destruction and loss of culture through conquest, occupation and human intervention.

Across Space and Time: Cultural Perseverance of Indian Heritage

Smell the sandalwood on reverently rubbed god-figures and a wedding canister still redolent of frankincense. Behold gorgeous, traditional articles of clothing worn ceremonially just this year, and household shrines used today the same way they were a century or two ago. Explore beautiful, meaningful and functional threads joining past and present. Across Space and Time:

Cultural Perseverance of Indian Heritage celebrates the living culture of India through artifacts that explore the beautiful, meaningful and functional threads joining past and present.

Curated by the ART 656 Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation graduate students enrolled in the NIU interdisciplinary Certificate in Museum Studies.
Collection Database Soon to be Available Online

Very soon, the Museum will make a portion of our collection database publicly available on our website. The first stage of this multi-phase project will allow online visitors to search and view a selected number of works from the Museum’s holdings through this public portal. Each entry will have an image and basic information about the work. If all goes well, the Museum plans to launch the site July 1.

Over the past two years, Curator Pete Olson and our Graduate Assistants have been working with our software provider to prepare for this launch and busily working to transfer and update hundreds of catalog record entries. Much of the meticulous work requires entering the detailed records of each work into the system and photographing each piece in the Museum’s collection. Recently, retired NIU Creative Service photographer Robert Banke started volunteering his photography skills to assist with professionally photo documenting the collection. Approximately half of the 1,700 accessioned works in the collection have been photographed and will be made available online.

While the entire collection of 2,500 works is not yet fully in the database, we are excited to make what is entered and photographed available. This decision greatly increases the access to artworks that may not have been exhibited for some time for our students, faculty, general visitors, scholars, and other arts institutions. As the Museum continues to accession work the online database will continue to grow as well. We hope this new capability broadens the reach of our works, enriches interaction with our collection and provides a valuable teaching and research tool. We hope you browse and explore our growing collection!
Events

Tuesday, March 27
**OHANA Public Program**
“Memory, Movement, Location”
Artist talk by artist/curator Nirmal Raja with light reception following. Hosted by the Asian American Resource Center.
5 – 6 p.m., Capitol Room, Holmes Student Center.

Wednesday, April 10
**The Namesake Film screening**
Directed by Mira Nair, the 2006 drama follows first-generation Indian-American Gogol, played by Kal Penn, who wants to fit in among his peers as he balances his family’s traditional customs. A family death forces Gogol to come to terms with his own name and family heritage.
PG | 122 min. 6 – 8:30 p.m., Montgomery Hall, Auditorium

Thursday, March 29
**Public Reception for**
Reclaimed Baggage
5 – 6:30 p.m., South Gallery

Panel Discussion co-chaired by NIU Professor Kristen Myers, Director, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality and guest-curator Nirmal Raja with artists from the exhibition.
6:40 – 8:15 p.m., Altgeld Hall 315

“writing the unknown”
Performance and Communal Embroidery Workshop
with artist Sabba S. Elahi
Location/Date TBD

Thursday, April 5
**Public Reception for**
All We are Breaking are Stones and Across Space and Time
5 – 7:30 p.m., North/Rotunda

**Artist Gallery Talk: Shaurya Kumar**
6 – 6:30 p.m., Rotunda Gallery

Thursday, April 19
**“India: The Visual Landscape”**
Horn, Please! screening and discussion with Ola Giza, Associate Professor, Design and Media, Visual Communications, NIU School of Art and Design; and Shantanu Suman, Associate Professor, Visual Communications, Ball State University.
5:10 – 6:30 p.m., Altgeld 125

Friday, April 20
**“Influence and Impact”**
American artists who have traveled, worked and studied in India. Artist Slide and Sound Talks by Christine Lofaso, Professor and Division Head, Fine Arts Studio, Fiber; and Bart Woodstrup, Associate Professor, Design and Media, Time Arts, NIU School of Art and Design.
5:10 – 5:50 p.m., Altgeld Hall 125

Tuesday, April 24
**Meet the Patels Film screening**
This 2014 documentary/comedy starring Ravi Patel, who plays himself, documents his search for a wife in the traditional Indian way with help from his parents and extended family.
PG | 88 min. 6 – 7:30 p.m., Montgomery Hall, Auditorium

Wednesday, April 25
**Meet the Patels Film screening**
This 2014 documentary/comedy starring Ravi Patel, who plays himself, documents his search for a wife in the traditional Indian way with help from his parents and extended family.
PG | 88 min. 6 – 7:30 p.m., Montgomery Hall, Auditorium

**“Influence and Impact”**
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5:10 – 5:50 p.m., Altgeld 315

Saturday, May 5
**Open for Artigras!**
NIU/DeKalb Celebration of the Arts
3 – 7 p.m.

For questions or more information on the events at the NIU Art Museum please phone 815-753-1936 or email the Education Coordinator at shenn1@niu.edu.
Sunday, May 6
Yoga Practice and Process
1 – 2 p.m., Altgeld 125

A series of public Sunday events presented by the students in the Art 656: Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation course are in the works.

Stay tuned for more info! Continue to check for updates and additions online by visiting niu.edu/artmuseum/events.

Only have a few minutes to spare?
Drop-in and join us for a quick talk!

Be in the galleries during selected times to hear a two to five-minute Flash Tour with Museum staff as they give insider explanations into a single work on view. Look for the logo label in the galleries at these Flash Tour times starting April 10:

Tuesday 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday 3:30 p.m.
Thursday 12:30 p.m.
Thursday 5:15 p.m.*

* Except during other scheduled Museum events.

Friday, April 6
BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple
Enjoy a guided-tour of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a Hindu holy place of worship in Bartlett. Learn about the sacred images and ceremonies of worship as well as the intricate carvings and architectural treatises integral to Indian architecture for thousands of years. After, take time to visit the Asharpith Gift and Book Shop for a selection of books, postcards, and DVDs. Enjoy lunch at the Shayona Café for a uniquely all-vegetarian Indian cuisine and the Shayona Sweet and Snack Shop for snacks and sweets for the trip home. At registration, Museum staff will share with participants certain guidelines visitors are requested to follow in order to maintain the sanctity of the Mandir.

Registration and Payment by 04/02/18. Departure 9 a.m. Expected Return 3 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $20; Non-Member Student/Senior $25; Non-Member Adult $30. Ticket price includes transportation. Meals and incidentals not included.

Saturday, April 28
A Meeting of Two Seas 2.0 and University of Chicago
Spend an afternoon in Hyde Park and at the University of Chicago! Enjoy music, dance, and poetry from India and Pakistan at the Rockefeller Chapel on the University of Chicago campus with concert featuring special guest Riyaaz Qawwals, an ensemble group performing traditional and modern devotional music from the regions of their homeland. The group’s musicians, who moved to the United States, are from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh and represent multiple religious and spiritual backgrounds from South Asia. Enjoy a reception hosted by the University of Chicago Spiritual Life Office and South Asian Student Association.

Registration and Payment by 04/18/18. Event and performance 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Departure 1:30 p.m. Expected Return 11 a.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $25; Non-Member Student/Senior $30; Non-Member Adult $35. Ticket price includes event and transportation. Meals and incidentals not included. Admission to campus museums earlier in the day on your own.

Saturday, May 19
Moods of Nayika Members Only Excursion
Join other NIU Art Museum members for this excursion to Moods of Nayika a multimedia live dance performance based on ancient poetry presented by Mandala South Asian Performing Arts, Chicago. Taken from the Ashfa Nayika, an ancient treatise on Indian arts that describes eight romantic archetypal heroines presented in painting, literature, and classical dance, this modern dance performance presents the various moods or contexts of these heroines. Enjoy dining at Nepal House and experience Nepalese and Indian cuisine in the city to complete your South Asian experience.

Group size limited to 15 participants! Registration and Payment by 04/30/18. Departure 1:30 p.m. Expected Return 9:30 p.m. Price: NIU Art Museum Members $48; Not a member, join when you RSVP! Tickets must be purchased in advance. No refunds or cancelations are offered once tickets are purchased. Ticket price includes transportation and show tickets. Meals and incidentals not included.

Pre-registration and payment required for all Get-on-the-Bus excursions. To sign-up, please contact the NIU Art Museum by phoning 815-753-1936. Payment may be made with cash, check made out to NIU, or major credit card over the phone.
**Our Volunteers**
The Museum would like to extend a special thanks to the following volunteers and individuals for their continued support. Special thanks to: **Robert Banke** for collection documentation photography and installation assistance; **Gary Burchett** for mailing assistance, construction advice and installation assistance; and Graduate MFA students Sasha Bitzer and Jayden Dale who assisted Visiting Artist Nandini Chirimar with her site drawing and installation of prints.

The Art Museum would like to specially acknowledge Brian Cory; Amanda Helfers; Kay Jansen; Rachelle Wilson-Loring; and Adina Salamansohn, Interdisciplinary Certification of Graduate Study in Museum Studies students in the Art 656: Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation course and instructor Peter Van Ael for curating Across Space and Time: Cultural Perseverance of Indian Heritage.

**Support**
The exhibitions and programs of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored by part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; the Dean’s Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts; and the Friends of the NIU Art Museum.

**Exhibitions**
Additional support came from Promod and Anju Vohra; Gurukrupa Indian Grocery and Copy Services; The Barbara Cole Peters Fund for the NIU Art Museum; Northern Illinois University’s Asian American Resource Center; Indian Student Association; Muslim Student Association; Visual Communications, Design and Media Division, School of Art and Design: Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality; the Interdisciplinary Certification of Graduate Study in Museum Studies; College of Education; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Artwork and objects for the exhibitions are on loan from DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana; SepiaEYE Gallery, New York, New York; exhibiting artists and private lenders.

Below: Graduate MFA student Terrance Grey at the opening reception for the Faculty Exhibition as visitors enjoy work in the galleries; Right: Art Museum Members, Elaine and Mike Bennett appreciate Fine Arts Studio Painting faculty Frank Trankina’s work.

**Sponsor Members**
Michael Barnes and Kryssi Staikidis
Rudolf and Ingeborg Bisanz
Peggy Burke and Ed Wietecha
Susan Carter and Robert Sabin
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Edward and Donna Flanagan
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Christine Worley and Peter J. Hood

**Benefactor Members**
Richard and Thecla Cooler
Jerry and Annette Johns
Kathleen and Richard Katz
Barbara and John Peters

Thank you for your continued support.

Membership renewal notices are not mailed. Please check if your membership card is expiring soon and renew today!
BECOME A FRIEND!

Engage and benefit from a closer connection with the arts! Enjoy early-bird announcements, discounts, and members’ only events. Take satisfaction in your vital commitment to support our exhibitions, programs and the preservation of our collection. Join Now!

If you are already a current member, please share this form with a friend. Thank you.

Friends Level

| Individual $25 | Dual $45 (2 people, one address) | Student $10 | Senior $15 | Dual Senior $25 (2 seniors, one address) |

Sponsor $100
Choice of one Sponsor Collector Print Series:
- Sidney Chaetz, Public Servant
- William Daley, Untitled (sketches for ceramics)
- David Driesbach, The Pied Piper
- Larry Gregory, Conkles Hollow, Ohio
- Peter Olson, Hummingbird Nebula
- Charlotte Rollman, Hopkins Park, DeKalb
- John Pitman Weber, Distant Soweto

Patron $250
Choice of one Patron Collector Print Series:
- Renie Adams, Point of View
- Michael Barnes, Sideshow
- David Driesbach, Opening Night
- Carl Hayano, Sushi Trinitron
- Ben Mahmoud, Night Garden

Benefactor $500
Choice of one Benefactor Collector Print Series:
- Susanne Doremus, Sea Fall
- Jay Ryan, The Squadron on Patrol

Membership Level Benefits

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YES! I want to _____ Join     ____ Renew at the indicated level below: Students and Seniors please enclose copy of current I.D.

Individual $25 / Dual $45 (2 people, one address) / Student $10 / Senior $15 / Dual Senior $25 (2 seniors, one address)

Sponsor $100 Patron $250 Benefactor $500
I would like to help with an additional donation of $______________.

☐ Please keep my premium and use my entire gift for programming and collection care.

Premium Selection ____________________________________________________________________________

Print Series Selection ____________________________________________________________________________

E-mail ________________________________

Payment
Check enclosed payable to NIU Art Museum for $______________.

Please charge:  Visa  Mastercard  Discover  Amer Exp     Expiration ________________

Account number__________________________________________

I am interested in volunteering for:

Baking/Receptions    Housing artists/scholars overnight    Gallery Attendant/Information Desk    Researching Get-On-The-Bus Trips    Other_____________________

Serving on an Advisory Panels: (Area of Interest:  Events    Fundraiser    Education/Outreach    Exhibitions    Collections)

Name _________________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________

City ________________________ State _______ ZIP ________________________

Phone _______________________ Mobile _____________________________

Return this portion to the NIU Art Museum, Altgeld 116, 1425 W. Lincoln Highway, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
Recent Gift to Collection

Artwork Featured in Exhibition
The Art Museum recently received a gift of art work to the collection from the DLA Piper Law Firm of Chicago that included three collages by John Fraser, an NIU alumnus, and also a mixed media lithograph and woodcut by John Himmelfarb. Both artists were featured in the recent New to the Collection: Recent Acquisitions exhibition curated by Pete Olson this winter.


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

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