Director’s Notes:

Summers used to be quiet on campus with plenty of space to park. Not so this year with all manner of construction, maintenance, and renovation projects, the NIU Vision 2020 Strategic Plan campus beautification project is in full swing. There is even a new head on the grotesque in the garden at the east entrance to Altgeld Hall - literally and figuratively!

While there is sadness at the retirement and departure of University Emeritus President John Peters and one of our favorite guest curators, Barbara Cole Peters, there will always be gratitude to and affection for them both and all that they did for NIU. 2012-13 brought transitions for the Museum as well with changes in part time staff, and on advisory committees, followed by many of our museum and graduate assistants finishing school and moving on.

This summer period of construction and transition is readying us for the excitement of a new beginning - a new mayor in town, a new president for the university. The potential is here for renewed energy and great success and we look forward to being a part of collaborative new projects for campus and town. Any remaining sense of loss is offset by the excitement of new opportunities;

a welcome to the clean, crisp cool of autumn, and the eternal geeky thrill of new school supplies.

2013-2014 exhibitions will present, in part, the results of our second year of holding a Call for Entries (C4E) to develop greater awareness in the art world of NIU Art Museum exhibitions and programs and to expose our Exhibition Advisory Committee and staff to new artists for display. C4E has, as expected, increased funds for exhibition marketing and documentation. Surprisingly it has also aided in museum and university public relations and service by helping artists more readily find ways to work with us—a complex process when we are typically planning two years out and thematically. Through C4E, we have discovered many new artists and reconnected with several NIU alumni.

The upcoming fall show, On Watching and Being Seen, was born in the Exhibition Advisory Committee’s creative brainstorming sessions to develop overall themes. At follow-up meetings, committee members proposed possible artists and programming ideas. Museum staff then proceeded with the long process of researching sources, soliciting lenders and negotiating loans to make the exhibition a reality. A collaborative approach among the museum staff continued with this aspect as well – resulting in a group show with many voices and many perspectives, as intriguing as our multi-roomed galleries and as complex as the topic at hand. An exploration of “appropriate” personal and social boundaries, the exhibition developed along increasingly political subthemes as national and international news kept touching on the heated topics of drones and surveillance in the past few months.

This winter we will again overlap semesters with an exhibition and programs focusing on the very talented faculty of the NIU School of Art. As part of our service to the university as a laboratory for learning, our student Graduate Assistants will be in charge of organizing, laying out and installing this large group exhibition and developing programming. Come spring, apparently after too many meetings in my paper-pile-crammed office, our thematic suite will examine hoarding. Hopefully, we won’t end up with an artist installation that never gets removed when the show is over!

Looking forward to seeing you this fall.
2. On Watching and Being Seen - Sneak Peek

With surveillance technology receiving so much attention in the media these days, we thought it would be timely to exhibit artistic investigations on the subject—including depictions of willing, unwilling, and oblivious subjects of surveillance.

On Watching and Being Seen will be our first exhibition this fall, encompassing all four galleries of the museum. In an ambitious (or foolish) undertaking, Art Museum staff worked together to curate this large group show featuring twenty-eight artists from Chicago to around the world.

Of the twenty-eight artists in the show, we are giving you (our dear members) a peek at three of them. We hope you find their works as interesting as we do!

Houston-based artist William Betts produces mechanized dot paintings of public surveillance camera footage. Betts taps into the art historical significance of painting to facilitate conversation about the content of the image. The resulting works are as unsettling as they are beautiful; they serve as a disturbing reminder that we are all subjects of surveillance. His piece on the top left is entitled: Park Sequence III.

Chicago artist Kathy Halper stitches line drawings of actual Facebook posts to shed light on the new and strange cultural phenomenon among young adults of posting intimate (and unflattering) images of themselves for the world to see and scrutinize. Her image directly to the left is entitled: Spring Break; the caption reads: “I can only imagine the horrible things my future wife is doing on spring break right now.”

Brad Farwell photographs unsuspecting subjects on the streets of New York City. In his Looking Glass series, Farwell put up a one-way mirror to capture passers-by sneaking glances at themselves, primping, scowling, etc. In his Fourth, The Tourists series, he took to the streets of Times Square to photograph tourists who were too busy capturing their surroundings to notice that they themselves were being watched.
3.

2013-2014 Exhibition Calendar

**FALL**

*On Watching and Being Seen*

Exhibition explores the roles of voyeur and exhibitionist, especially through the impact of social media and surveillance technology. How we define what is private and what is public (or what we think should be) has ramifications in our feeling engaged, threatened, or ambivalent.

*August 27th - October 19th, 2013*

Public Reception: Thursday, September 12th, 4:30 - 6:00pm

Special Sunday viewing: September 15th, 12 - 4:00pm

This exhibition contains adult content.

Image to the left: © Jay King, Courtesy of Stephen Daiter Gallery

**WINTER**

*NIU School of Art Faculty Biennial*

Biennial exhibition featuring new art work and research by current full and part time faculty from the NIU School of Art.

*November 19th, 2013 - February 15th, 2014*

Public Reception: Thursday, November 21, 4:30 - 6:00pm

Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend and from December 19 – January 6 for Winter Break

**SPRING - Hoarding, Amassing, and Excess**

Exhibition explores the psychological, sociological, and artistic impulses for accumulation, horror vacui, berserk collecting, and excessive mark making.

*March 25th - May 23rd, 2014*

Public Reception: Thursday, April 3rd, 4:30 - 6:00pm

**Looting, Hoarding, Collecting...**

Museum Studies ART 656 project explores historic and current issues of looting and repatriation as they relate to museum collections.

*April 3rd - May 23rd, 2014*

Public Reception: Thursday, April 3rd, 4:30 - 6:00pm
Friday, September 6, 2013
Chicago Galleries Season Opener

Afternoon stop TBA, then West Loop and River North gallery receptions. Bus departs NIU School of Art Parking Lot at 1 p.m.; Return arrival @ 10:30 p.m. Transportation: Members: $15; Student/Senior non-members: $18; Others: $20

Registration/Payment deadline: Wednesday, 09/04/13

Sunday, September 22, 2013
Impressionism, Fashion and Modernity and Undressed: The Fashion of Privacy at the Art Institute of Chicago.

This trip is on one of the final days of this highly acclaimed Impressionism show! Bus departs NIU School of Art Parking Lot at 10:30 a.m.; Return arrival @ 6:45 p.m. Transportation: Members: $12; Student/Senior non-member: $15; Other: $18 Museum Entry and Meals on own.


Registration/Payment deadline: Thursday, 09/19/13
Museum staff members have been researching collection management software (CMS) with the intention of transferring our current outdated collection inventory database to a more flexible system that will increase public access for research, awareness, and use of the museum’s collections online. With the support of NIU’s College of Visual & Performing Arts (CVPA) Dean Rich Holly and the generosity of Elizabeth and Harvey Plotnick funds to support CVPA we are able to update the hardware and software needed for a new CMS system. We have spent much of the last six months on product research, joining a professional museum registrar group and mining their very active discussions online, participating in CMS webinars and attending conference sessions on new directions in access to digital collections and expect to purchase, transfer data and begin implementation within the next year. We’ll keep you posted!

On the recent acquisitions front, the museum has been fortunate to receive two generous gifts of artwork for the Permanent Collection. One is an etching and aquatint by British artist Howard Hodgkin called David’s Pool at Night. The title refers to fellow British artist and friend David Hockney; indeed the abstracted use of decorative patterns is a trait both artists share. The print came to us via the Art Institute from Howard Haas, the same donor who gifted us a large Jane Hammond print a few years ago.

The estate of west coast artist Beth Van Hoesen donated sixteen of her works of art: 13 prints and 3 drawings. A very prolific artist, Van Hoesen made hundreds of small monochromatic linear drawings that leave an intimate record of her surroundings (a man shaving, a boiler room, three peaches on a table) and more ambitious color aquatints of flowers and animals, such as “Buster” the owl. By coincidence, her work has been exhibited at the NIU Art Museum before: in a group exhibition of prints from San Francisco’s Teaberry Press.

Howard Hodgkin, David’s Pool at Night 1979, etching and aquatint, 25 1/8 x 31
Beth Van Hoesen, Buster 1982, split-bite aquatint, drypoint & etching, 20 x 17 3/4
Bauman Conservation Comes to the Aid

A recent Northern Today article focused on the Ralph Clarkson portrait of NIU (then NISNS) first president John Williston Cook (1899-1919). What it didn’t mention was that the oil painting was badly in need of conservation work. A call came to the museum asking if we could recommend a painting conservator. We could—especially, in the case of a painting from this era. Best yet, the work could be done by a world renowned painting conservator for just the cost of materials!

A former Associate Conservator at the Art Institute of Chicago and specialist in Dutch Baroque paintings, Mr. Barry Bauman founded the Chicago Conservation Center in 1983 which he successfully ran for twenty years before entering the private sector to establish America’s first national conservation laboratory dedicated to offering complimentary conservation services for non-profits and museums saving them thousands in fees. Barry is selective, however, picking the works of art he is most interested in communing with for weeks on end. Fortunately for NIU, he has a weakness for old portraits and has a particular fondness for the fine work of Ralph Clarkson. A step-by-step demonstration of the conservation process can be found on his website: www.baumanconservation.com, where you can check out Bauman’s case study of the restoration of Ralph Clarkson’s portrait of John Peter Altgeld.

Mr. Bauman’s work was spectacular (as you can see), and will allow the members of the NIU community to continue to enjoy the portrait for years to come. Visit the third floor of Altgeld Hall to see it yourself!
7. **Volunteers & Lenders - Thanks!**

We wish to extend our special thanks to all those who volunteered their time, labor, collections, and expertise during the past year.

Volunteers’ contributions made a huge impact easing our stress, improving our operations and offsetting expenses so that the museum was able to (1) purchase new audio visual display equipment for the galleries and (2) staff was able to attend the annual Midwest Museum conference – an important opportunity for us to keep up with best practices and increase professionalism. So everyone should thank you!

(Names in bold are members of the Friends of the NIU Art Museum)

**2012-13 Volunteers included:**

**Accounting and HR Support:** Susan Carter (Thanks, Dean Holly!)
**Bulk Mailing Assistants:** Terri Smialek, Zaneta Taylor
**Bus Trip Research:** Terri Smialek, Gretchen Moore
**Editing & Tech Support:** Blake Armstrong, Alan Potkin, Fanny Potkin
**Exhibition Consultants:** David Parker, Judy Ledgerwood, Catherine Raymond, Nora Taylor
**Exhibition Display Design and Construction:** Michael Bennett, Gary Burchett
**Furniture Fabrication:** Michael Bennett, Linda and David Groat
**Gallery Attendants:** Audre Anderson, Yvonne Beckway, John Benson, Jeanette Biava, Richard M. Cooler, Kathy Dust, Merie Greer Domina, Alexander LaBee, Jan Modliff
**Guest Curators:** Catherine Raymond, Music for the Divine: Musical Instruments and Traditions of Burma. Alison Balcanoff Bastian, Kathryn Ritter, and Sarah Rivers. Transnational Identity: Performing Arts in Southeast Asia. The students in Spring, 2013 Museum Studies ART 656, Exhibitions and Interpretation: Malwina Bardoni, Alison Balcanoff Bastian, Emily Bereiter, Alyssa Jaracz, Leif Magren, Alex Revzan who worked with their instructor, Peter Van Ael, to create the exhibition Mapping: Measuring Across Place and Period; Information, Navigation, and Geography
**Installation and Art Transport Assistants:** Burma Interest Group (BIG)
**Program Consultants:** Richard M. Cooler, Sophia Varcados
**Program Presenters:** Karen Brown, Richard M. Cooler, Sarah Evans, Jodi Heitcamp, Jerry Meyer, Catherine Raymond, Judith Testa, Lynne M. Thomas, Philip Young
**Performers:** Gregory Beyer and students, School of Music; Paula Frasz and students, School of Theatre and Dance; Local Poets & Readers: John Bradley, Sherry Brauer, Laura Devine, Joe Gastiger, Annette Johns, and Susan Porterfield

We are forever grateful to the generous and adventurous lenders who shared their art collections enabling our staff, guest curators, and NIU museum studies students an opportunity to interpret and curate from an array of fascinating and exquisite objects that otherwise would not have been available. The sharing of these vital resources benefited all NIU Art Museum visitors and enhanced the exhibition experience for all of us. Thank you!

**2012-2013 Exhibition Lenders:**

**PRIVATE:**
Anonymous, John Balsley, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Bass, Gerald Brauer, Richard M. Cooler, John Hartmann, Patricia Henry, David & Sarojini Johnson, Julie Lamb, Jerry Meyer, Michael Noland, Mary Olson, Catherine Raymond, Sarah Rivers, and Howard A. Tullman.

**INSTITUTIONAL:**

**Commercial Galleries:** EC Gallery, Tory Folliard Gallery, George Ritzlin Antique Maps and Prints, Ann Nathan Gallery, Joel Oppenheimer Gallery, Packer Schopf Gallery, SA SA BASSAC Gallery, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery.
**Academic Museums and Galleries:** The David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago; Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University; School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne.
**Northern Illinois University Collections:** NIU Anthropology Museum, Blackwell Museum of Education and Research, Burma Art Collection, Geography Department Geovisual Mapping Laboratory, and Rare Books and Special Collections at the University Libraries.
Current Members List - Thank You!

Friends:

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Foundation Members:

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Is it time to renew your membership?

We do not send out reminder notices for membership renewal. Please take a look at the date following your name on the mailing label to see when your current membership is scheduled to expire.

Thank you.
By becoming a member of the Friends of NIU Art Museum you help increase community support for the arts and receive special privileges and benefits. As a Friend of the NIU Art Museum you contribute to both the continuance and growth of a valuable cultural resource in northern Illinois. Your membership provides essential support for exhibitions, educational programs, artists’ lectures, exhibition-related publications and conservation of the permanent collection.

Benefits & Levels of Membership:

FRIENDS: Individual $25 / Dual $45 / Student $10 / Senior $15 / Dual Senior $25
Choice of:

⇒ NIU Art Museum Travel Mug
⇒ NIU Art Museum Academic Calendar
⇒ NIU Art Museum Tote*
⇒ NIU Art Museum Tee Shirt*
*(additional fee of $5 for Student and Senior members)

• Priority registration and discounted fees on museum activities
• Printed mailing of exhibition announcements
• E-mail announcements/listserv
• Special members-only previews, receptions, bus trips and special events
• 20% discount on NIU Art Museum catalogues
• Subscription to Museum Notes newsletter

SPONSOR Membership $100
All of the Friends privileges plus
Choice of one of the following prints from the Friends Collector Print Program:
⇒ Larry Gregory, Conkles Hollow, Ohio
⇒ Charlotte Rollman, Hopkins Park, DeKalb
⇒ Philip Smith, Five Summers Past
⇒ Sidney Chafetz, Public Servant
⇒ Eugene Larkin, 27 Feathers
⇒ Jack Coughlin, Small Winter Owl
⇒ Peter Olson, Hummingbird Nebula

• Complimentary exhibition catalogues
• Recognition in Museum Notes

PATRON Membership $250
All of the above Friend & Sponsor privileges with
Choice of one of the following prints from the Friends Collector Print Program:
⇒ Renie Adams, Point of View
⇒ Michael Barnes, Sideshow
⇒ David Driesbach, Opening Night

• Name engraved on Membership Plaque in Museum

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

Return This Portion to the NIU Art Museum, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
YES! I want to __Join __Renew my Membership of the NIU Art Museum at the level circled:

Individual/$25 Dual/$45 (2 people, one mailing address) Student/$10 Senior/$15
Dual Senior/$25 (2 seniors, one mailing address) Sponsor/$100 Patron/$250

*Students and Seniors please enclose copy of current I.D.

I would like to help with an additional donation of $__________. _____I do not wish to receive a premium. Please use the entirety of my membership fee (and/or donation) towards programming and collection conservation.

Premium Selection: ____________________; Sponsor or Patron Print Selection: ____________________

Name_________________________ Street_________________________
City_______________________ State ____________ ZIP _________ Phone_________________________

E-mail address ______________________________

Enclosed is my check payable to the NIU Art Museum for $_________

Please charge my: Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

Account number_________________________ Expiration date_________________________

Name on card __________________________ Signature ___________________________

I am interested in volunteering: Baking/Receptions Housing artists/scholars overnight

Gallery Attendant/Information Desk Advisory Panels - Area of Interest: Events Fundraiser

Education/Outreach Exhibitions Collections Get-On-The-Bus Trips

Other______________________________
Staff Announcements

Jo Burke has been spending her weekends scraping and painting the exterior of her house this summer when she hasn’t been sailing in Michigan. Come fall she’ll be hard at work writing new policies for the museum.

Pete Olson’s latest drawing, “The Birds of Arizona”, is included in Define Drawing, a curated group exhibition at the McLean County Arts Center in Bloomington, IL. He will also be teaching the Intro to Museum Studies class here at NIU this fall.

Heather Green ventured out west to visit family this summer, and will be teaching figure drawing part-time at Loyola University in the fall.

Jo, Pete, and Heather attended the Association of Midwest Museums Conference in Madison, WI this July.

Adrienne Miller worked a summer internship at Spudnik Press in Chicago, and will have a solo show in Nashville at Threesquared Gallery in September.

Tess Michalik has shown work this summer at Union League Club Annual Arts Competition and at the McLean County Art Center in their triennial exhibition of emerging Illinois artists.

Christina Warzecha is a new graduate student in ceramics who will be joining the art museum staff. We’re very excited to welcome her this fall!

Museum Committees:

Exhibition Advisory Committee:
Audre Anderson
Michael Bennett
Karen Brown
Diane Rodgers
Peter Van Ael

Education Advisory Panel:
Deborah Booth
Cynthia Helleyer-Heinz
Liz Rex
Shei-Chau Wang

Join our listserve for the most up-to-date Art Museum information! E-mail hgreen2@niu.edu to sign up for email updates, or find us on the web: www.niu.edu/artmuseum - also on Facebook, Flickr, Artslant & Twitter!

The exhibitions of the NIU Art Museum are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the Friends of the NIU Art Museum, and the Dean’s Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.