

# Museum Notes

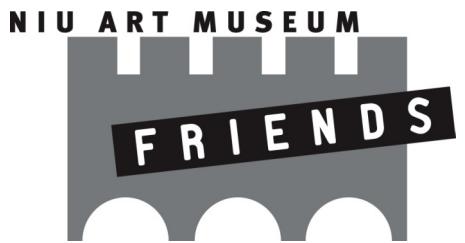
A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum



## NIU Art Museum Vol. 18, Issue 3, Winter 2014

### Inside This Newsletter

2. Faculty Show & Programming
3. Participation Requests
4. Museum Studies News
5. Get-On-The-Bus Updates
6. Feedback & S/P Members
7. Membership Form
8. Staff Updates & Committees



### Art Museum Membership Renewals:

Jan Devore

Patricia Galvan

Karen Hagen

Cile Massover

Sheila McHugh

Kathleen Pawlak

Leila Porter

Peggy Sullivan

Norma Zopp

### Student & Faculty Combined Closing Reception:

Please join us **Wednesday, February 12** for a joint exhibition closing reception with the NIU Art Museum and the Office of the President, **4:30 - 6 p.m.** University President Doug Baker and his wife Dana Stover will be present for a final viewing of the *NIU School of Art Faculty Biennial Exhibition* at the Art Museum and a display of NIU Student Illustration and Design in the President's office.

As part of NIU's *Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow* initiative, the President's house and office were decorated with student work. NIU School of Art student artworks were installed in President Baker's office in Fall, 2013 and included representative work of six recent illustration majors and two graphic design majors. The pieces are all digital prints on archival paper made from original art, and were selected by current graduate students Jessie Knirsch (2nd year, Painting) and Daniel Jasa (3rd year, Printmaking) who served as curators for the student work on exhibit at both the President's house and the President's office. The team of Knirsch

and Jasa also matted and framed the selected pieces, arranged them in the spaces, and installed the works on the walls as part of their real world experience as "gallerists."

Student artists whose work can be seen during the closing reception at the President's office include: Nate Crocker, Hannah Drinnenberg, Brooke Engelhart, Melanie Gibb, Jiaqi He, Dan Horan, Lindsay Leader, and Mindy Suthamchai. Jessie Knirsch and Daniel Jasa will be at the reception to talk about their curatorial decisions.



Image: Student curators with work in the office. Jessie Knirsch (left), President Doug Baker (center), Daniel Jasa (right). Photo by George Tarbay

2.

## NIU School of Art Faculty Exhibition & Programming



**Images:** (Clockwise from top left) Karen Brown mingling at the opening of the Faculty Show; Cindy Hellyer-Heinz demo and talk in Altgeld 315 as a part of the NIU Faculty Show programming series; Installation shot - photographs by Christine LoFaso & painting by Frank Trankina; Installation shot - painting by Nina Rizzo & ceramic piece by Yih Wen Kuo. (Photos: Peter Olson, Jo Burke, Bob Banke)

With recent work and research on display in the museum galleries and hall cases, *The NIU School of Art Faculty Exhibition* has been a well-received success. The opening reception was very well attended, and served as yet another great excuse for NIU's community of artists and art lovers to come together. In fact, NIU's new president, Doug Baker, couldn't resist stopping by to take a look, meet some of the artists and try his hand at interpreting work.

As part of their responsibilities as Graduate Assistants with the museum, Adrienne Miller (2nd year Printmaking) served as the installation and layout lead—assisted by Tess Michalik (3rd year Painting) and Christina Warzcecha (1st year Ceramics) for the 2013-14 Faculty Show.

Our programming series has been progressing wonderfully with record numbers of audience members in attendance thus far. Many members of our audiences have ventured over from departments across campus or come in from the community to participate (which is always a plus!). So, if you haven't had the chance to stop by yet, don't miss the opportunity to take part in some of our fascinating faculty programming!

### **Remaining Programming Schedule:**

**Michael Barnes**, (Tuesday, Feb. 4th, 12:10-12:50pm) artist slide talk; **Rebecca Houze**, (Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 12:10-12:50pm) art history slide lecture; **Peter Olson & Catherine Raymond**, (Thursday, Feb. 6th, 5-5:50pm) informal slide talk; **Sarah Evans**, (Monday, Feb. 10th, 5-5:50pm) art history slide lecture; **Michael Rea**, (Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 5-5:50pm) artist slide lecture.

**CLOSING RECEPTION: Wednesday, Feb. 12th, 4:30-6pm!**

## Participation Requests...

### **Members and Friends Participation Requested:**

What type of object would you place in a time capsule to describe yourself? Visiting Artist Robert Reed from Hawaii would like you to be a part of his installation "Encapsulated Memories." Robert will be constructing an interactive sculpture created from objects placed in food sealer bags for the upcoming exhibit, ***Hoarding, Amassing and Excess***.

Please bring in any type of object that you feel describes you or this period of time in our culture. Maybe it is not something current but a childhood toy or a love letter or photograph. **The object should weigh less than one pound and be 5" x 7" x 11" or smaller to ensure a proper fit and seal.** For example, an old iPod would fit, or a t-shirt could be folded or will squish to conform to the bag dimensions. Objects can be perishable but nothing that will rot (for instance, potato chips, a Twinkie, or roses are fine, but not a hamburger). Please attach a brief note, anonymous or signed, explaining why you decided on this particular item.

Objects will remain through the run of the show. The item should be dropped off at the Art Museum office before NIU's spring break  
**(by March 7th, 2014).**



### **Poets and Poetry-philes:**

Calling out to our local poetry society! It strikes us that our *Hoarding, Amassing, and Excess* exhibition this coming spring begs for another poetry night. (Heck, if we can find art that deals with hoarding, you can find words that deal with stuff.) Do you have too much stuff? Does it overwhelm you? Do you have things with special meaning? Have you ever put into words to describe why that thing matters? Or do you know of a published poem that speaks on why one might hoard, amass, or do anything to excess?

This recital of original poems and reading of other poets' work on this topic will be held on **Thursday, May 15, from 7:15-8:30 in Altgeld 315**. If you (or someone you know) have interest in participating, please contact the museum by May 1st so we can plan accordingly. Those who don't want to read or recite are, of course, welcome to attend and make nodding gestures of approval.

### **Art Deco Enthusiasts:**

As we are researching and planning future exhibition possibilities it would be most helpful if we knew some lenders of items we might display.

Do you (or someone you know) own fine or applied art works from between the great wars that you'd be willing to lend for an exhibition exploring the thematic and design concepts behind this popular early 20th century art movement?

It could be something you inherited, have kept from your youth, or purchased at a gallery or even a thrift shop. Travel posters, hand bound books, objects d'art such as jewelry, ceramic pitchers, desk lamps, a great chair or even ashtrays, Bakelite toasters/radios, or other objects with graphic advertising – any object that speaks to the modern design sensibility would be considered. If so, please contact us!

**Thank You!**



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

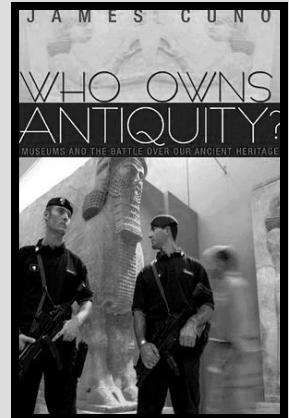
With the soon-to-be-released George Clooney film, The Monuments Men, exploring the artists, museum curators and historians who were embedded in the allied army in Europe during World War II in an attempt to safeguard and preserve historic buildings and artwork, attention is brought to the outrageous looting and hoarding of artwork by the Nazis. Illicit exchange in antiquities, art and artifacts has occurred on all war fronts with works going into hiding, personal collections or even into museum collections.



## **Panel Discussion on Looting Hosted at U of C**

Several Northern Illinois University Museum Studies faculty attended a panel discussion, *Looting the Past: The Battle for Our Ancient Heritage*, hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs held at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago in December.

The panel included James Cuno, President and CEO, The J. Paul Getty Trust; Patty Gerstenblith, Distinguished Research Professor of Law, and Director, DePaul Center for Art, Museum, & Cultural Heritage Law; Richard M. Leventhal, Professor of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, and Executive Director, Penn Cultural Heritage Center; and was moderated by Gil Stein, Director, Oriental Institute. Geared toward collectors, the panel focused on developing awareness and concern for an item's provenance, touched on what sort of items a museum should collect, and began to discuss financial ways to offset poverty in a region to keep items from ever entering the market.



## **Workshop & Lecture**

The Museum Studies component of our upcoming Spring shows, *Looting, Hoarding, Collecting...* will be organized by the graduate students in ART 656, taught by Peter Van Ael. It will deal with historic and current issues of looting and repatriation as they relate to museum collections. In conjunction with this exhibit, programming is being planned by the NIU Museum Studies Program in collaboration with the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM).

**Museum Ethics in a New Gilded Age: Making the Hard Choices**, a private workshop for museum studies students and museum professionals sponsored by the IAM with support from the NIU College of Visual and Performing Arts, will take place at the Ellwood House Museum in DeKalb, Wednesday, April 16. The workshop leader, **Erik Ledbetter**, is former Director of International Programs and Ethics of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and current principal of Heritage Management Solutions, Rockville, Maryland. The full day workshop will involve presentation and small group activities exploring key ethical issues for museums in the twenty-first century. **For more information on pricing and registration for the workshop please see the IAM website: <http://www.state.il.us/hpa/iam/default.html>**

That same evening, Erik Ledbetter will present a free public lecture, *Repatriation and its Ills: A Heretic's Reflections*, in Altgeld 315 from 5-6 p.m. This lecture is sponsored by the Visiting Artists and Scholars Fund of the NIU School of Art. Ledbetter posits certain problematic issues with current museum best practices.



Image: Erik Ledbetter

The day prior, Ledbetter will have reviewed the exhibition *Looting, Hoarding, Collecting...* at the NIU Art Museum and met for discussion and critique with the ART 656 graduate students who will have developed the exhibition in the earlier weeks of spring semester. Ledbetter will also meet with the TLCI 657 Museum Education class. These sessions are supported with funds from the Visiting Artists and Scholars Fund of the NIU School of Art and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

5.

## Get-On-The-Bus - ONE TRIP ADDED!

**Saturday, February 15th, 2014 - JUST ADDED!!**

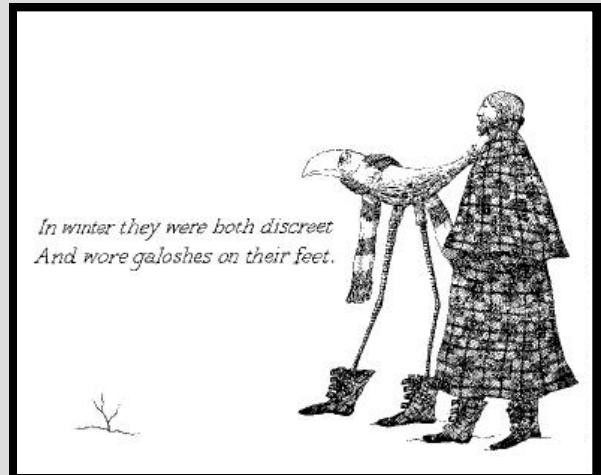
### Elegant Enigmas at LUMA & Brewed in Belgium at Intuit

We're heading to LUMA to view the highly-anticipated Edward Gorey exhibition, have lunch in Water Tower area, then we'll move on to Intuit for a guided tour covering outsider art and the Henry Darger Room.

Bus leaves the School of Art parking lot at 9:30am, LUMA 11:00 - 1:00, lunch Water Tower Area from 1:00-2:30, Intuit from 2:45-4:15, then back to DeKalb by 6pm.

**Trip Pricing: Members: \$20; Student/Senior non-members: \$22, All Others: \$25.** Transportation and museum entry fees are included. Lunch is up to you!

**Registration and payment due Wednesday, 02/05/14.**



**Saturday, March 15th, 2014**

### Hyde Park Art Center & The University of Chicago

Leave from School of Art lot at 9:00 a.m.; Return arrival 7:00p.m. We'll visit the Hyde Park Art Center first, then go on to The University of Chicago to see what's going on at the Smart Museum, the Renaissance Society, and the new Logan Center for the Arts. Cost of food on own.

**Members: \$18, Student/Senior non-members: \$22, All Others: \$25.**  
**Registration/Payment deadline: Wednesday 03/12/14**



**Thursday – Sunday, March 27-30, 2014: TRIP IS CURRENTLY FULL - WAITING LIST AVAILABLE**

We are returning to St. Louis for a tour of museums, buildings, and neighborhoods for our Get-On-The-Bus Overnighter. This is a recap and mix-it-up of our previous successful overnight stays in the delightful town of St. Louis. We'll be staying at the Moonrise Boutique Hotel in the Delmar Loop neighborhood and touring around town. **Call the NIU Art Museum for more details: (815)753-1936.**

**Saturday, May 3rd, 2014**

### The House on the Rock - Architecture & Collections

Come see Alex Jordan's House on the Rock. We'll see the unique space (including the famous "Infinity Room") and view his fantastically berserk collections on site. This should be spectacular!

We'll depart from the School of Art parking lot at 8am and return at 5:30pm. Food and museum entry fee is on your own. Trip cost will cover transportation.

**House on the Rock:** (this price includes all collections, prices can be lower if not viewing everything)

Adults: \$28.50  
Seniors: \$26.50

**Bus Pricing: Members: \$30; Student/Senior non-members: \$35, All Others: \$40.**

**Registration and payment due Wednesday, 04/30/14.**



## Survey Feedback & Sponsor/Patron Members



### On Watching and Being Seen

NIU Art Museum  
August 27th - October 19th, 2013

#### Recent Survey Feedback:

With our survey results in from the Fall, we thought we should share some of the valuable feedback we received regarding our *On Watching and Being Seen* exhibition.

Many of you were emotionally affected by the show, as common responses ranged from feeling "disturbed", "unsettled", and "self-conscious" to "amazed", "enlightened", and "inspired". With the challenging content of *On Watching and Being Seen*, it is no surprise that there was quite a range of responses. We were fascinated by the feedback we received, and very thankful that many of you were willing to participate in our survey.

We are always interested in hearing about the ways in which our exhibitions resonate with our audience. Thank you for continuing to provide us with invaluable information that will help us serve you better in the future.

#### Quotable Survey Responses:

***"This gallery is one of  
my favorite things about NIU!"***

***"The museum always does  
wonderful shows. Thank You."***

#### **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.**

#### Sponsor Members:

Rudolf & Ingeborg Bisanz  
Phillip & Gayalla Burchett  
Peg Burke & Ed Wietecha  
Virginia Cassidy  
John & Nancy Castle  
Ellen Roth Deutsch & Herb Deutsch  
Catherine & James Hovis  
Charles Larry & Emmylou Studier  
Brian Reis & Mary LeClair  
Dimitri Liakos  
Jerry & Miriam Meyer  
Bill & Jo Monat  
Nick Noe  
Martin S. Novak  
Patricia Perkins  
Diane Ragains-Slawin  
Maureen & Morley Russell  
Marilyn Sjoholm  
Terri Smialek  
Sally Stevens  
Sharon Tourville  
Lynne M. Waldehand  
Christine Worley

#### Patron Members:

Doug Baker & Dana Stover  
Michael & Elaine Bennett  
Gerald & Cheryl Brauer  
Jo Burke  
Natalie Calhoun  
Richard & Thecla Cooler  
Lisa Freeman  
Norden Gilbert & Ben Thomas  
Larry & Carmeda Gregory  
Richard F. Grott  
Jerry & Annette Johns  
Dr. Anne C. Kaplan  
Richard & Kathleen Katz  
Mary Olson  
Barbara & John Peters  
Beth & Harvey Plotnick  
Catherine Raymond & Alan Potkin  
Helen Shirley

7.

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/listserve
- Special members-only previews, receptions, bus trips and special events
- 20% discount on NIU Art Museum catalogues
- Subscription to **Museum Notes** newsletter

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

**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

**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. (seniors only when you join)**

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 Updates & Museum Committees

## Peter Olson:

"Moonlight Cocktails Are the Thing", an exhibition of prints, plates and proofs by David Driesbach, has been revived (we showed the original incarnation here in 2009) and is currently on display at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. As a former Driesbach student, Pete will be giving a gallery talk at the closing reception on Feb. 20, 2014.

## Tess Michalik:

Tess will be presenting her MFA Thesis Exhibition of paintings from March 22nd - 28th, 2014 in JAH/VAB 214. A reception for her work will be held on Thursday, March 27th, 2014.

## Anthony Amettis:

Anthony was accepted to present two art historical research papers at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of Kentucky-Lexington.

## Congratulations to All!

**Join our listserve for the most up-to-date Art Museum information! E-mail [hgreen2@niu.edu](mailto:hgreen2@niu.edu) to sign up for email updates, or find us on the web: [www.niu.edu/artmuseum](http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum) - also on Facebook, 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.

## Museum Committees:

### **Exhibition Advisory Committee:**

Audre Anderson  
Michael Bennett  
Karen Brown  
Diane Rogers  
Peter Van Ael

### **Education Advisory Panel:**

Deborah Booth  
Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz  
Liz Rex  
Shei-Chau Wang

*Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow*

**Northern Illinois University**



NIU Art Museum  
Almond Hall 116  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
(815)-753-1936  
And by appointment for groups tours  
Saturday 12:00 - 4:00  
Tuesday - Friday 10:00 - 5:00  
Gallery Hours:

