

# Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum



## NIU Art Museum Vol. 27, Issue 2, Winter/Spring, 2024

Become a  
Friend of the  
NIU Art Museum!

### New Members

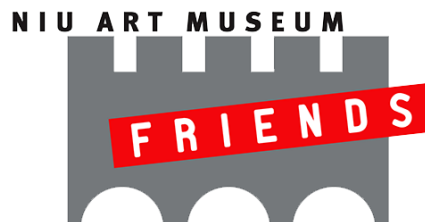
Catherine Koemptgen  
Kate Storey  
Steve Walt

### Renewals

Renie Adams  
Joyce Barker  
Michael Barnes and Kryssi Staikidis  
Elizabeth Bass  
Gary and Marilyn Bellert  
Rudolf and Ingeborg Bisanz  
Deborah and Colin Booth  
Pat Brown  
Jo Burke  
Peggy Burke  
Susan Carter and Robert Sabin  
John and Nancy Castle  
Richard and Thecla Cooler  
Gary and Dee Coover  
AnnaMarie Coveny  
Jan Devore  
Pat and Steve Faivre  
Claudia Frost  
Brian and Linda Fulton  
Donna Gable and Ken Rodd  
David and Linda Groat  
Barbara Hulseberg  
Jerry and Annette Johns  
Thom and Carol Kapheim  
Anne C. Kaplan  
Charles Larry and Emmylou Studier  
Donna Leonard  
Sandra and Howard Little  
Karen Matz and John Skowronski  
Sheila McHugh  
Jerry and Miriam Meyer  
Jan Modloff  
Nicholas Noe  
Julia Olsen  
Caroline Quinlan  
Catherine Raymond and Alan Potkin  
Brian Reis and Mary LaClair  
Rich Rice and John Calimee  
Diane Rodgers  
Michael and Robin Rothamer  
Maureen Russell  
Bill and Kathy Scarpaci  
Linda Schwarz  
Beverly A. Smith  
Jerry and Ging Smith  
Marian Swenson  
Ruth Anne Tobias  
Philip and Johanna Vandrey  
Sophia Varcados and Jen Conley  
Jerrold and Carol Zar



Photos top to bottom: installation view of Dan Grych's artwork for "What is for Supper? What is a Meal," one of the hall cases from "Unsurpassed in Quality: Vintage Food Labels from the Collection of Peter B. Olson" and an installation view from "Food for the Soul: Belief and Healing in Burma."



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Subscribe to the museum's email announcements to stay informed between newsletters.

To sign-up, visit  
[niu.edu/artmuseum/about/contact-us.shtml](http://niu.edu/artmuseum/about/contact-us.shtml)

Confirm your subscription by clicking the link in the confirmation email.

## 2. Exhibitions

### Spring 2024 Exhibition

Mar. 26 through May 11, 2024

### Making Our History—Artists Render Lincoln's Legacies

Opening reception: 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 4.

Informal talk with project coordinators Brytton Bjorngaard and Graham A. Peck to begin at 5:45 p.m.

This exhibition was produced by University of Illinois Springfield Director of Visual Arts and professor of graphic design Brytton Bjorngaard and Wepner Distinguished Professor of Lincoln Studies Graham A. Peck. Twenty Illinois artists in a virtual residency created paintings, sculptures, prints, photography, virtual reality, conceptual and video artwork. The artwork showcases the many sides to Lincoln that permeate our perception of the former president through each artists' interpretation of Lincoln's legacies: the frontier Lincoln, the family man, the politician, the military chieftain, the emancipator, the icon, the saint, the pop culture figure and cultural artifact, the Land of Lincoln and Lincoln's still resounding political legacy. Accompanying this exhibition are video interviews produced by Storyteller Studios of Springfield that provide insight into each artists' practice, research and project. In addition, Professor Peck has written essays that contextualize their work in relation to Lincoln history.

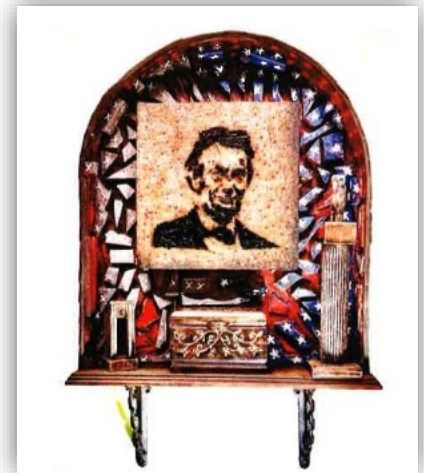
Artists participating in this exhibition include William Blake, Julie Cowan, Keenan Dailey, David Hinds, Danny Houk, Larsen Husby, Jordan Fein, Lori Fuller, Industry of the Ordinary (Adam Brooks and Mathew Wilson), Lindsay Johnson, Kelly Kristin Jones, Judith Joseph, Alexander Martin, Judith Mayer, Mark Nelson, Nathan Peck, Don Pollack, Krista Shelton, Corey Smith and Billie Theide.



Billie Jean Theide, "Commemorative 4¢."



Jordan Fein, "The Melancholy That Followed."



Mark Nelson, "Frances Loves Abe Versus Eighteen Sixty Two."

Also on display will be "Lincoln Highway: The Mainstreet Across America" located in our hall case gallery. This exhibition has been curated by our program assistant Shelby Edelmann and discusses the history of the creation of the Lincoln Highway, how it shaped cross-country travel across the United States and the roots of the Lincoln Highway here in DeKalb County.

#### Upcoming exhibits:

"Spirituality, Heritage and Health" - artists explore cultural lineage, beliefs, events, environment and practices as they relate to physical and mental well-being.

**Aug. 27 to Oct. 19, 2024.**

"Biennial Faculty Show" of the NIU School of Art and Design and the NIU School of Theatre and Dance.

**Nov. 19 to Dec. 14, 2024 and Jan. 14 to Feb. 15, 2025 (closed for university holiday).**

## Museum Staff

Jo Burke, Director  
Peter Olson, Assistant Director  
Shelby Edelmann, Program Assistant

## Extra Help Preparator

Ari Norris

## Museum Assistants

Yesenia Arroyo  
Rory Bis-Markel  
Devin Gonzalez  
Ryan Sarau-Young  
Andrew Valdovinos

## Exhibition Advisory Committee

Michael Bennett  
Mary-Glynn Boies  
Jessica Cima  
Aleksandra Giza  
Nina Rizzo  
Richard Siegesmund  
Peter Van Ael  
Johnson Kwame Wor  
(Student Representative)

Visit [niu.edu/artmuseum](http://niu.edu/artmuseum)  
Phone: 815-753-1936  
Email: [artmuseum@niu.edu](mailto:artmuseum@niu.edu)  
E-news: [go.niu.edu/artmuseum-enews](http://go.niu.edu/artmuseum-enews)



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) @NIUArtmuseum

Parking on campus is now administered through AIMS Mobile Pay or Parking Pay Stations available in the [Visitor Pay Lot](#) located at 200 Carroll Ave and at accessible parking spaces in front of Lowden Hall with accessible aisles and route to Altgeld Hall. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 5 p.m. weeknights in nearby Lots 3 and 14.

To request disability-related accommodations for museum programs, please contact the museum at least one week in advance. Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

## Museum News

We want to wish **Catherine Raymond** congratulations on her well-deserved retirement. Listed below are the exhibitions Catherine curated that were on display here at the Art Museum:

- 2004—*The World of Burmese Buddhism*
- 2006—*From Heaven to Earth: A Ritual to the 37 Nats*
- 2008—*Belief Made Tangible*
- 2010—*Legacy on Lacquer, Living Art from Burma*
- 2012—*Music for the Divine, Musical Instruments and Traditions of Burma*
- 2014—*Dressing Difference: Exploring Gender and Ethnicity in Modern Burma*
- 2016—*Kaleidoscope of Burmese Art* (30th Anniversary for the Center for Burma Studies, NIU)
- 2018—*Vanishing Art from Myanmar: The Buddhist Reverse Glass Painting Tradition*
- 2021—*The Art of Surviving: The Journey of the Karen Refugees in Illinois*
- 2023—*Americans in Burma: The Art of Collecting*
- 2023-2024—*Food for the Soul: Belief and Healing in Burma*

We want to welcome the new Director of the NIU Center for Burma Studies, Dr. Aurore Candier, Ph.D. in History and Civilizations, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) Paris, France. Her 2020 International Convention of Asia Scholars prize-winning book, *La réforme politique en Birmanie pendant le premier moment colonial (1819-1878)* [The Political Reform in Burma during the First Colonial Moment (1819-1878)] will soon be available in English.

We would also like to congratulate Carmin Berchiolly, the former Program Director of the Center for Burma Studies, who was recently promoted to Curator of Burmese Collections.

## NIU Art Museum Collection Spotlight: Letterio Calapai

Evanston art collector Joel S. Dryer acquired the entire estate of prolific printmaker Letterio (Leo) Calapai several years ago and has been systematically donating large groups of these prints to museums around the country (most recently to Syracuse University in upstate New York).

The donation to NIU numbers about 300 intaglio prints, wood engravings and lithographs, spanning the 1930s until the artist's death in Glencoe, IL in 1993. In the 1940s, Calapai served as a chief technician at Stanley William Hayter's Atelier 17 printmaking workshop in New York City. "The connection to Hayter is significant in its own right but is especially meaningful to our collection here at NIU," mentions Assistant Director Peter Olson. "Hayter also trained Mauricio Lasansky, who was David Driesbach's teacher in graduate school." *Continued on page 8...*

## Staff Announcements

We are pleased to announce that Ari Norris has joined the Art Museum as an extra help preparator.

Ari has a B.F.A. (2019) and M.A. (2021) from NIU, is a sculptor, and Gallery Director and Curator at the Rockford University Art Gallery. He co-directs Cleaner Gallery + Projects with Ryan Burns (NIU M.F.A. 2013) which received positive mention at the New Art Dealers Association shows in New York and Miami.

Ari will be jurying the annual Dick Blick Ars Nova exhibition in the Jack Olson Gallery this spring.

## CVPA Arts Newsletter

[niuarts.com/newsletter-opt-in/](http://niuarts.com/newsletter-opt-in/)

## Arts Blog

[niuarts.com/](http://niuarts.com/)



Letterio Calapai. *La Valse*, 1951. Engraving, soft ground and surface color through stencils, 22.75 x 17.5 in. NIU Art Museum Collection 2023.172. Gift of Joel S. Dryer.



## 4. Campus Museums Events Calendar

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

### STEM Café: Food Production & Preservation

Jessica Cima (Curator, Pick Museum of Anthropology) will review the Good Food Exhibit on display at the Pick and discuss the benefits of growing and preserving your own food. Chef Bryan Flower (Asst. Director, Food Systems Innovation) will discuss the Edible Campus project.

Location: **Fatty's Pub & Grill**



Thursday, Feb. 8, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

### Book Discussion: The Seedkeeper

Join Prof. Melissa Adams-Campbell (English) for a discussion of Diane Wilson's "The Seedkeeper" (2021)."

"The Seedkeeper" follows generations of Dakhóta women as they struggle to preserve and protect their culture and food knowledge.

Location: **Pick Museum of Anthropology**, Cole Hall

Friday, Mar. 1, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

### Lunch and Learn: Water Quality & Access

Prof. Emily McKee (Anthropology) and Prof. Melissa Lenczewski, (Earth, Atmosphere, and Environment) will discuss access to water and water quality. Lunch for students is generously provided by Huskie Harvest.

Location: **Pick Museum of Anthropology**, Cole Hall

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 5 to 7 p.m.

### Public Opening Reception

Join us for the opening reception of "Making Our History: Artists Render Lincoln's Legacies" in the **Art Museum Galleries**. Informal talk with the UIS project coordinators to begin at 5:45 p.m. Refreshments provided.



Public programs are subject to change, addition and cancellation. Visit online for latest programming details and to register for virtual events, [niu.edu/artmuseum/events](https://niu.edu/artmuseum/events).

### Bus trip information is forthcoming.

Museum Staff, as well as bus trip volunteer planners **Deb Booth** and **Terri Smialek** are currently planning future trips, including overnight excursions. We will announce these trips through our e-blast as more information becomes available. Thank you for your patience!



Thursday, Apr. 25, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

### Lunch and Learn: Food Experience & Choice

Dr. Kris Borre (Environmental Studies) will share her research with Photovoice and interviews to discuss food experience and food choice. Lunch for students is generously provided by Huskie Harvest.

Location: **Pick Museum of Anthropology**, Cole Hall

Sunday, April 28

### Member's Only Event: "Conversation with Carl"

Why should Abraham Lincoln matter to you? Picture yourself sitting next to Carl Sandburg in his cozy study, among his books and papers, as he tells you his intimate stories about why Lincoln still matters today. Sandburg said his biography of Lincoln "returned him to the common people". Hear why Lincoln's words can revive a "Lincoln hearted" people to reclaim the American promise.

The essence of Carl Sandburg will be presented by Steve Duchrow, a DeKalb actor who champions the Prairie Poets Vachel Lindsay and Carl Sandburg through their words and ideas.

**Members—watch for your invitation! More details to follow.**

**Not a Member? Maybe you should join!**

Photo: Steve Duchrow in front of the Old Illinois State Capitol where Lincoln gave his "House Divided" speech and President Obama launched his candidacy.



### CVPA Community School of the Arts: Summer Camps

For those of you with children or grandchildren interested in visual and performing arts, the NIU Community School of the Arts is hosting summer arts camps! Jazz, percussion, theatre arts and visual arts camps will be held this July. For more details and registration information, visit [niu.edu/external-programs/summer-camps/index.shtml](https://niu.edu/external-programs/summer-camps/index.shtml).



All events are free unless otherwise noted. Preregistration for virtual and in-person events may be required. Please phone 815-753-1936 or visit online for Zoom virtual live streaming details: [niu.edu/artmuseum/events](https://niu.edu/artmuseum/events).

## Thank You!

**Special thank you** to **John Calimee** and **Rich Rice** for their generous donation to offset the price of the bus for our February 2nd trip to Chicago.

**Program participants for Soul Collage Workshop:** Jen Conley, Peggy Doty, Sylvia Gillberg, **Catherine Koemptgen**, **Liz Mehren** and Lisa Riedl.

**Program participants for our food-themed Poetry and Short Story Night:** John Bradley, Joe Gastiger, Frances Jaeger, Becky Parfitt and **Rich Rice**.

**Guest Curation and Installation Crew:** Michael Chambers and Millicent Kennedy, The Center for Burma Studies crew: Carmin Berchiolly, Sophie Bergagna, Phyo Wai Design, Julian Garcia, Danni Hernandez, Aung Htet Moe, Lay Mu, Venerable Paññādhikalanakara, **Alan Potkin**, Fanny Potkin, **Catherine Raymond**, Maeve Wallace, Milsy Westendorff and Khaing Wai Wai Zaw.

**Creative, Technical Support, and Art Transport:** **Robert Banke**, Andy Dolan, Ari Norris, **Sophia Varcados**, NIU Media Services, and Supplied Solutions.

**Funding Partners:** The Illinois Arts Council Agency, The NIU Arts and Culture Fee, WNIU/WNIJ and Shaw Media.

**Thanks as well to staff and crew!** Yesenia Arroyo, Rory Bis-Markel, **Jo Burke**, **Shelby Edelmann**, Devin Gonzalez, **Peter Olson**, Ryan Sarau-Young, Abbey Skelton and Andrew Valdovino.▪

## Photos from What is for Supper? What is a Meal, Food for the Soul: Belief and Healing in Burma and Unsurpassed in Quality



## Photos from Dialogue and The Remaining, Mourn...:



## 6. Sustaining Members

### **Sponsors**

Renie Adams  
Michael Barnes and Kryssi Staikidis  
Fred Barnhart  
Rudolf and Ingeborg Bisanz  
Molly Burke  
Peggy Burke  
Susan Carter and Robert Sabin  
Michael and Elizabeth Denius  
Matthew and Shelby Edelmann  
Paul and Elizabeth Eisen  
Edward and Donna Flanagan  
Donna Gable and Ken Rodd  
Patricia Galvan  
Stephen and Deborah Haliczzer  
Barbara Hulseberg  
Steven A. Johnson  
Ronald G. Klein  
Sandra and Howard Little  
Jerry and Miriam Meyer  
Gretchen Moore  
Dianne and James Moss  
Nicholas Noe  
Peter Olson  
Patricia Perkins  
Diane Rodgers  
Maureen Russell  
Linda Schwarz  
Dan and Virginia Seymour  
Terri Smialek  
Ruth Anne Tobias  
Patricia S. Vary  
Lynne Waldeland  
Steve Walt  
Christine Worley and Peter Hood

### **Patrons**

Michael and Elaine Bennett  
Derryl Block  
Mary-Glynn and John Boies  
Deborah and Colin Booth  
John and Nancy Castle  
Patricia and Stephen Faivre  
Robert Fleisher and Darsha Primich  
Norden Gilbert and Ben Thomas  
Richard F. Grott  
Thom and Carol Ann Kapheim  
Catherine Koemptgen  
Ronald G. Klein  
Carol Luc  
Bryan Perry  
Brian Reis and Mary LaClair  
Sally Stevens  
Christo R. Watson

### **Benefactors**

Gerald and Cheryl Brauer  
Jo Burke  
Richard and Thecla Cooler  
Lee S. Holt  
Jerry and Annette Johns  
Anne C. Kaplan  
Paul and Katherine Kassel  
Kathleen and Richard Katz  
Elizabeth Plotnick  
Catherine Raymond and Alan Potkin  
Rich Rice and John Calimee

The support the museum receives through your financial gifts and your enthusiasm for the museum allows us to produce award-winning exhibitions and programs for the university, DeKalb and beyond.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

### **Membership Renewals**

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

### **Change of Address**

Notify the Museum if you have moved to ensure that you continue to receive issues of the Museum Notes newsletter.



For those wishing to make certain of our future, please consider donating to the Friends of the NIU Art Museum Endowment Fund care of the DeKalb County Community Foundation [dekalbccf.org](http://dekalbccf.org).





# JOIN

All gifts sustain and grow opportunities for enrichment and engagement that are free and open to all. Take satisfaction knowing your vital commitment supports our exhibitions, programs and the preservation of our permanent collection.

## Membership Levels

**Benefactor \$500**

**Patron \$250**

**Sponsor \$100**

## Friend

Individual \$25 Dual \$45  
Senior \$15 Dual \$25  
Student \$10

## Benefits

	Benefactor	Patron	Sponsor	Friend
Choice of one "Friend" premium.	■	■	■	■
Priority registration and discounted activity fees.	■	■	■	■
Printed mailing of exhibition announcements.	■	■	■	■
Special members-only previews, receptions, bus trips and special events.	■	■	■	■
20% discount on NIU Art Museum catalogues.	free	free	free	■
Subscription to "Museum Notes" newsletter.	■	■	■	■
Recognition in "Museum Notes."	■	■	■	
Name engraved on membership plaque.	■	■		
Private personal tour (options available).	■			



## Premiums

**Friend** Choice of: Travel mug, ceramic mug or T-shirt\*. (\*Additional \$5 for student/senior levels.)

## Benefactor

Choice of **one** Benefactor Collector Print

Susanne Doremus, "Sea Fall"  
Jay Ryan, "The Squadron on Patrol"

## Patron

Choice of **one** Patron Collector Print

Renie Adams, "Point of View"  
Michael Barnes, "Sideshow"  
David Driesbach, "Opening Night"  
Carl Hayano, "Sushi Trinitron"  
Ben Mahmoud, "Night Garden"

## Sponsor

Choice of **one** Sponsor Collector Print

Sidney Chafetz, "Public Servant"  
William Daley, "Untitled"  
David Driesbach, "The Pied Piper"  
Larry Gregory, "Conkles Hollow, Ohio"  
John Pitman Weber, "Distant Soweto"

\*Subject to print availability.

## Membership

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

☐ **Benefactor \$500** ☐ **Patron \$250** ☐ **Sponsor \$100**

**Friend** select one

- ☐ Individual \$25 ☐ Dual \$45 (2 members one household)  
☐ Senior \$15 ☐ Dual Senior \$25  
☐ Student \$10

I would like to help with an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

### Premiums - make checks payable to NIU.

☐ Premium Selection \_\_\_\_\_ Print Series Selection \_\_\_\_\_

### Charitable Donation - make checks payable to NIU Foundation.

☐ Please keep my premium. Use my entire gift for exhibitions, programming and collection care by making a charitable donation through the NIU Foundation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge: Visa Mastercard Discover Amer Exp Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### I am interested in volunteering for:

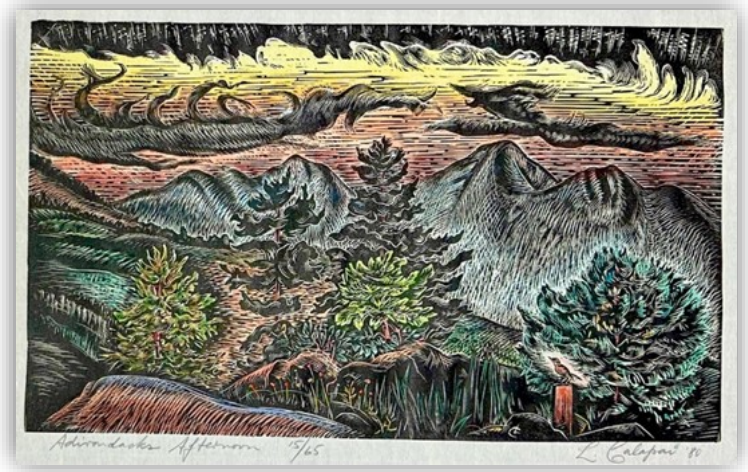
Baking/Receptions Housing artists/scholars overnight Gallery Attendant/Information Desk Researching Get-On-The-Bus Trips Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Serving on an Advisory Panels: (Area of Interest: Events Fundraiser Education/Outreach Exhibitions Collections)

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

## 8. Collection Spotlight, continued from page 3

When he had a sabbatical in 1969, Driesbach took the opportunity to travel to Atelier 17 (then located in Paris) to work with Hayter himself. "Our collection holds prints by Hayter, Lasansky, Driesbach and Calapai, and a photographic archive of the famous Atelier 17 printmaking studio. In the cases of Driesbach and Calapai, we have several working proofs and drawings, as well as finished prints, enhancing the educational richness of this resource," adds Olson.

Letterio Calapai. *Adirondack Afternoon*, 1980. Hand-colored wood engraving, 5.5 x 9.5 in. NIU Art Museum Collection 2023.79. Gift of Joel S. Dryer.



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

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, the NIU Art and Culture Fee; and the College of Visual and Performing Arts' Season Presenting Sponsor Shaw Media and WNIJ/WNIU.



Gallery Hours  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday  
Noon to 6 p.m., Thursday, Friday  
Noon to 3 p.m., Saturday  
Also by appointment for group tours. Closed  
university holidays and between exhibitions.

NIU Art Museum  
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DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
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[niu.edu/artmuseum](http://niu.edu/artmuseum)

