Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Guns and Consequences: Voices of Poets Addressing Gun Violence in their Neighborhoods presented by the Northern Illinois University Art Museum

DeKalb, IL – Join the Northern Illinois University Art Museum for an evening of poetry recital and spoken-word pieces. The performance event, Guns and Consequences: Voices of Poets Addressing Gun Violence in their Neighborhoods features Chicago poets and NIU students Thursday, October 8th beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Altgeld Hall room 315. The spoken-word performances relate to themes of violence and the impact of guns on local neighborhoods. The event is co-sponsored by the NIU Art Museum; the Center for Black Studies; and Diversity & Equity, Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management at NIU. The Art Museum galleries will remain open from 5 - 7:20 p.m. prior to the event.

Chicago poet Nikki Patin, a Def Poetry Jam poet who testified before the United Nations on the Black experience in America as well as performed on stage in New York and Detroit, serves as host for the evening’s performances. Participants include nationally-known Chicago-based poets and spoken-word artists Tara Betts, Reginald Eldridge, Jr., Jessica Fenlon, Mojdeh Stoakley, Billy Tuggle, and Nikki Patin as well as NIU students Latasha Green, Dexter Matthews, Darius Parker, and Annie Phillips. This event draws attention to the broader national dialog surrounding the challenging issues of gun violence in America.

The event is part of the Art Museum’s programming series related to the exhibition Unloaded, a nationally-traveling multi-media group exhibition exploring the historic and social issues surrounding the divisive nature of gun ownership curated by Susanne Slavick, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Art at Carnegie Mellon University on display at NIU Art Museum through October 24, 2015. This exhibition is part of the Art Museum’s fall series examining contemporary artists’ exploration of relevant social issues in today’s world. The Art Museum’s full events calendar may be found online by visiting http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum/calendar/index.shtml or by calling 815-753-1936.

About the NIU Art Museum

The NIU Art Museum contributes to the University’s educational curriculum and provides opportunities for art education and cultural enrichment throughout the community. The Museum serves to educate, preserve, exhibit, and enlighten by balancing the challenges of contemporary art with the riches of traditional media for a comprehensive examination of 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; and the Dean's Circle of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, NIU Foundation.

Also on display
August 25 – October 24, 2015
Embarrassment of Riches, a group exhibition of six Midwest artists explores themes of sustainability and the intersection of visual art and environmental science as well as humanity's complicated relationship with the earth and environment.

Gallery Hours
Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 12 – 4 p.m.; by appointment for group tours. Exhibitions are open to the public and admission is FREE, but donations are always appreciated.

The NIU Art Museum is located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Castle Drives on the campus of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Parking is available in the Carroll Avenue Visitor’s Pay Lot; handicapped and metered spots in front of Altgeld Hall; and during public receptions and programs in Lot 3 northeast of Gilbert Drive and College Avenue. Campus parking is free on weekends and after 7 p.m. weeknights.

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NIU Art Museum
Altgeld Hall 116, First Floor, West End
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www.niu.edu/artmuseum