



Northern Illinois
University

NIU Art Museum

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jo Burke, Director NIU Art Museum, (815) 753-7898, email: jburke2@niu.edu

The Northern Illinois University Art Museum is excited to present ***Local Visions: Selections From Area Collections***, a diverse exhibition including art from the 18th through the 21st centuries, Indonesian textiles, circus posters, antiques, Roseville pottery, record sleeves, vintage toys, folk art and much more. The exhibition opens on **Tuesday, January 6 and runs through Saturday, February 21**. The **public reception on Thursday, January 15, 4:30 – 6 p.m.** will feature a **gallery talk by artists, collectors and curators Peter Olson and Michael Bennett at 5 p.m.**

Here is your chance to enjoy the generosity of local residents for allowing us a glimpse of the art and objects that enrich their personal lives every day. Featured collectors include Mary-Glynn and John H. Boies, Rodney Borstad, Gerald and Cheryl Brauer, Richard M. Cooler, Robert and Christa Even, Sven Oskar Hansen, Tom Hulseberg, Ronald G. Klein, David McMahon, Molly Carter and David Menard, Jerry D. and Miriam Meyer, Charlie and Dedrie Rudolph, Dan and Virginia Seymour and Jerry and Ging Smith.

“What motivates individuals to select and arrange art and objects in their private living spaces?” asks exhibition co-curator Michael Bennett. “I am fascinated by the way the impulse to collect objects is both universal and highly individual. Each of us, in our own way, asserts our identity by surrounding ourselves with things we love. In a way, the objects become a self-portrait of our aesthetics.” For example, at the home of retired art historian Jerry D. Meyer and his wife Miriam, one finds paintings, drawings and prints by colleagues from the NIU School of Art, but also objects with aesthetic and nostalgic appeal, such as vintage toys, a beautifully designed wooden pitchfork and an antique rocking horse. Ronald G. Klein has been active in the community, both as an attorney and board member of several local organizations for many years, and one feels a strong sense of place among his collection of artwork depicting rural scenes, and books documenting DeKalb County history. According to exhibition co-curator Peter Olson, “We are thrilled to highlight the visual richness of our community, and to tell the personal stories behind the objects. We hope to embark on a future series of exhibitions, each highlighting a different group of collectors from our community.”

Related Events:

The NIU Art Museum will feature **two informal gallery talks** with a number of the collectors on **Saturday, February 7 and Saturday, February 21 at 1 p.m.**

Record sleeve designer **Timothy O'Donnell** will deliver a **public lecture on Wednesday, February 18 at 5 p.m.** in the NIU Art Building, Room 110.

(MORE)

On **Thursday, February 19** the Chicago sensation “That Belongs in a Museum” will visit The House Cafe in DeKalb for a show-and-tell storytelling event. Anyone may bring an object of personal, historic or humorous significance and share its unique story. Examples of past events are archived on www.thatbelongsinamuseum.org. **The event is located at The House, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, February 10, NIU Art Museum will screen the **documentary film, *Herb and Dorothy***, the story of a librarian and postal worker who amassed one of the greatest collections of contemporary minimalist and conceptual artwork. The film will be shown at **7:15 p.m. in Montgomery Hall Auditorium**.

The NIU Art Museum is located on the first floor, west end of Altgeld Hall, located on the corner of College and Castle Drives on the campus of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Group tours may be arranged by appointment. More information about exhibitions and programming may be found at: www.niu.edu/artmuseum.

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



Artist: Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
Title: La Passangere Du 54
Media: Lithograph
Date: 1896
Photo Credit: unknown



Objects in the collection of Rodney Borstad, DeKalb.

Photo Credit: Peter Olson

High-resolution images will be sent as a separate attachment.