



Guidelines for Exhibition Proposals

Thank you for your interest in submitting a proposal for an exhibition at the NIU Art Museum. Exhibits should be conceptualized around a theme relevant to our mission and may involve a historical, social, cultural, intellectual or political focus. Please be as specific as you can and do not hesitate to provide additional information.

Our Mission

As an art museum belonging to an academic institution, the dual roles of the Northern Illinois University Art Museum are to contribute to the university's educational curriculum and to provide opportunities for art education and cultural enrichment to the people of the northern Illinois community. **The mission of the NIU Art Museum is 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 museum pursues its goal of furthering understanding of the visual arts by presenting high-quality, professional art exhibitions supplemented by artist slide talks, gallery tours, lectures, panel discussions, symposia, hands-on workshops, *Get-On-The-Bus* art excursions, and publications including *Gallery Notes*, a membership newsletter, brochures, catalogues and a behind-the-scenes blog.

Operations

The museum's Exhibition Advisory Committee is made up of the Director, Assistant Director, NIU Faculty, a student representative and respected community members including museum professionals, artists, and members of the Art Museum's Annual Giving program. We present an average of 10-14 exhibitions annually within our 4 galleries. Each year the museum hosts exhibits that range from works in the permanent collection, traveling exhibitions of national and international contemporary or historic works, in-house curated exhibitions, as well as the alternating biennial NIU School of Art Faculty Show and selections from the NIU Burma Collection. Exhibition schedules are established two to three years in advance. Beginning in the academic year 2011 – 2012, exhibitions will run the duration of 10 weeks in three clusters, with the museum's calendar operating from late August through late May providing extended hours over the winter break. For a richer viewing experience and educational impact, we attempt to cluster our exhibitions into thematic groupings. This may impact scheduling.

About the Space

The NIU Art Museum consists of four exhibition spaces: the Rotunda, North, and South Galleries, and the Hall Case Gallery. It is strongly recommended that proposals include drawings, detailed floor plans and/or models of how one intends to utilize the gallery space. [Click here](#) to download a pdf of our floor plans and familiarize yourself with the space as you propose your exhibition.

The Rotunda Gallery is comprised of 1400 sq. ft. of space, 138 linear (running feet). It is the largest of all the spaces and features a unique curved wall at the far end of the gallery. Approximately half the wall space has horizontally placed air cycling vents that are located 27 1/2" from the floor to the top of the vent. The ceiling height is 10' and has drop-ceiling tiles with weight-bearing limitations. There is ample halogen and recessed lighting as well as hardwood floors. It is an open floor plan with three 18" diameter columns that bisect the center of the room. The Rotunda has the potential for an additional six movable walls that can be utilized to maximize the space. They measure 72"l x 24"w x 96"h, have a 6" recessed base, and each can add an additional 12 linear feet. [Click here](#) to view the Rotunda's floor plan. [Click here](#) to view the gallery space. [Click here](#) to view previous exhibitions in this space.

The North Gallery is comprised of 325 sq. ft. of space, 63 linear (running feet). This space is best suited for installations, smaller one-person exhibitions, didactic displays, and film or video. The ceiling height is 10' and has drop-ceiling tiles with weight-bearing limitations. There is ample halogen and recessed lighting as well as hardwood floors. [Click here](#) to view the North Gallery's floor plan. [Click here](#) to view the gallery space. [Click here](#) to view previous exhibitions in this space.

The South Gallery is comprised of 1366 sq. ft. of space, 216 linear (running feet). This gallery is best suited for a large one-person or group show. The space is divided into three adjoining rooms totaling 1181 sq. ft. and has two additional turrets. The small turret is 45 sq. ft. and the large turret is 140 sq. ft. Both have 11' ceilings and windows that break the wall space. Approximately one-third of the wall space has horizontally placed air cycling vents that are located 27 1/2" from the floor to the top of the vent. The ceiling varies in height from 10'-11' and has drop-ceiling tiles with weight-bearing limitations. There is ample halogen and recessed lighting as well as hardwood floors. The South Gallery has the potential for 4 movable walls that can be utilized if a more intimate setting is desired. They measure 72"l x 24"w x 96", have a 6" recessed base, and each can add an additional 12 linear feet. [Click here](#) to view the South Gallery's floor plan. [Click here](#) to view the gallery space. [Click here](#) to view previous exhibitions in this space.

The Hall Case Gallery

These cases are located in the main hallway of Altgeld Hall, directly outside both the South and North/Rotunda entrances. The 5 cases measure 10"deep x 70"w x 47"h. There is a wood divider in the middle of each case, making 10 sectional areas that measure 33" wide. The viewable window area is 38.5"h x 27.25"w. The right side of each case has access to a single electrical outlet and the cases have up to 20 movable glass shelves in stock. [Click here](#) to view previous exhibitions in this space.