FAU Jupiter Library Features Printmaking Exhibit Through May 14

Florida Atlantic University’s John D. MacArthur Campus Library Gallery is hosting “Proof: South Florida Printmakers,” an exhibition of broadsides and prints by nine of South Florida’s finest artists now through Friday, May 14.

“Proof” represents a collaborative effort between some of South Florida’s finest artists and writers. In some cases, the artists responded to words, and in others, writers produced work after conversations with artists. Other pairs worked closely to produce collaborative works. This intersection of word, image and the process of creative dialogue is at the heart of the exhibition.

The exhibition, featured first in February at the Miami artlab33 gallery, was organized by artist Tom Virgin, who graduated from FAU in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in printmaking and painting. He also holds a master’s degree in fine arts from the University of Miami.

“I chose the show’s title to reflect the printmaker’s term for the first image taken from a given plate, and to demonstrate through tangible evidence that printmaking in South Florida is a vital enterprise well placed in the mainstream of contemporary work being done here,” said Virgin, who does artists books, prints, art in public places and sculpture.

Other artists with work in the exhibition are Diane Arrieta, Karl Snyder, Kathleen Hudspoth, Jonathan Thomas, John Cutrone, Seth Thompson, Andrew Binder and Brian Reedy. Each artist has at least three works in the show, and their art includes such techniques as etching, woodcut, silkscreen and digital printing.

Cutrone and Thompson, the driving forces at FAU Libraries’ Arthur and Meta Jaffe Center for Book Arts, have been creating handmade books and broadsides together since 1995. “The literary broadside can really test the mettle of a printer in finding that successful marriage of text and image and design,” Cutrone said. “The concept of this exhibition is so exciting to me, to see the form approached even on a conceptual level by other artists in the region, even artists I wouldn’t necessarily think of as text-based.”

Snyder creates life-size figurative prints using Plexiglas plates and prints that are a combination of etching and engraving. Her work has been greatly influenced by Japanese Ukiyo-e woodblock prints. Binder, an instructor in the College of Education at FAU, is showing 18 handmade, one-of-a-kind artist books, many of them pop-ups. Several of the featured books are part of Binder’s World Heritage Series and reflect his travels around the world.

FAU’s John D. MacArthur Campus Library Gallery is located at 5353 Parkside Drive in Jupiter. The library’s hours are Sundays from 12:30 to 11 p.m., Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call (561) 799-8530 for more info.