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FAU sponsoring exhibit of quilted books at Wimberly Library on Boca Raton campus

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Florida Atlantic University Libraries' Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts is sponsoring "Quilted Books? Gold Coast Quilters Guild Book Arts Competition," a celebration of quilted fabric artist books, from Sept. 12 through Oct. 31 at the S.E. Wimberly Library, 777 Glades Road, on FAU's Boca Raton campus.

"The courage and excitement to experiment beyond traditional boundaries has produced a new kind of visual art that has moved the classic quilt from the bed to the wall," said Marianne Haycock, the guild's president-elect and co-chairman of the book arts competition.

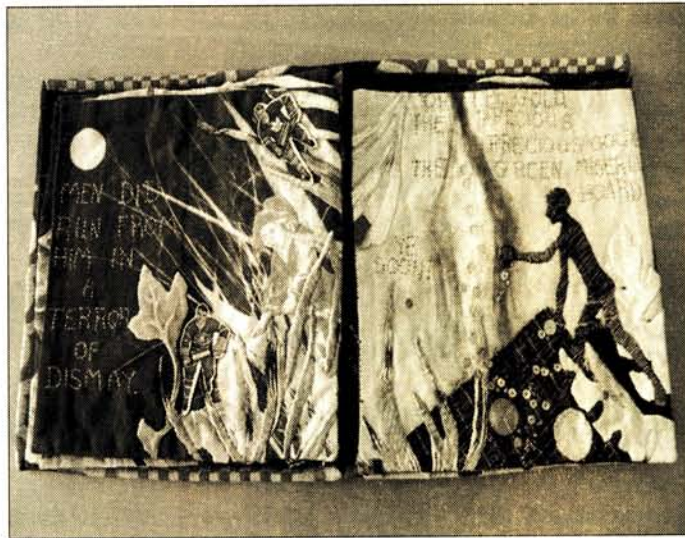
"Even the shape of the traditional quilt has changed," she said. "In recent years, quilters have been exploring a new art form, the quilted fabric artist book."

The International Quilt Association Festival, which is held annually in Houston, Texas, introduced quilted artist books to its quilters in 2006. The level of interest in creating fabric and mixed media books resulted in a return engagement for the upcoming International Quilters Festival in November.

Arthur Jaffe, curator and founder of the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Collection: Books as Aesthetic Objects, which is housed in the center for book arts, visited members of the guild in 2006 and introduced them to artist books. He talked to them about artist books, bookmaking and the Jaffe Collection, which began in 2000 with a donation of 2,800 books by Jaffe and his late wife, Mata. That collection numbers nearly 10,000 items today.

"Textile arts and book arts share a common foundation in the celebration of the handmade object," said Jaffe. "We invited members of the Gold Coast Quilters to explore this common ground by challenging them to create artist books in fabric, the medium they know best."

Haycock said he expects the books to be constructed and embellished in a mix of fabrics and textures, including painting, embroidery, quilting and beading with traditional book binding incorporated into the design.



(Special to the News)

"Dark Ahab" by Lois Morrison, a quilted fabric artist book that is part of the Jaffe collection at FAU.

"Many of our members have never made books before, but they are expert quilters," said Haycock, who joined the guild in 2003. "They are experimenting with a new genre of quilting and are really pushing the envelope artistically."

The Boca Raton-based guild, founded in 1985, has more than 200 members who produce hundreds of quilts that are distributed throughout the year to more than 20 agencies and community organizations, including hospice, foster care and children with cancer. The Gold Coast Quilters Guild recently adopted a new program, Quilts of Valor, which makes quilts for wounded service members recovering in Veterans hospitals.

Jaffe, John Cutrone, programs coordinator for the Jaffe Center and Jane Hill, an accomplished quilter and a past president of the guild, will judge the quilting competition. The winning entry will become a permanent part of the Jaffe Collection after Jaffe presents a \$750 purchase award.

The exhibition, which is free and open to the public, can be viewed at the Jaffe Atrium Gallery at the entrance of the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts, third floor

east of the library, during regular library hours, which can be found at www.library.fau.edu/geninfo/hours.htm?boca or by calling 561-297-3770.

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