FAU center showcases artworks in book collection

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BOCA RATON — In the hands of an artist, a familiar structure like a book can be taken apart and put back together in strange, dreamlike ways. It can explode into a burst of feathers, wave like grass in the wind, be made of steel or lead or padded bed sheets.

The Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts at Florida Atlantic University this month is showing off some of its most thought-provoking and outrageous artifacts.

The show, called Out of the Book, coincides with FAU’s first Fine Arts Festival, which includes visual art, music and theater performances on the Boca Raton campus Saturday and Sunday.

The show is big enough to take up two FAU art galleries, with a collection of art on book pages at the Schmidt Center Art Gallery and sculptural book art in the Ritter Art Gallery.

Some of the books include stories and poems written by the artists, literary quotations, calligraphy, stitchery and metal work, in what amounts to a multimedia explosion of creativity.

The tinies book in the show, with delicate illustrations, would fit into the hands of a mouse.

Hecuba Replies is by Kate Schmitt, assistant professor of English at Florida Atlantic University. The work, described as acrylic, pen and ink on canvas with elements sewn onto pages with cobbler’s thread, is in on display at FAU’s exhibition of book art.

Out of the Book continues through Oct. 30 at the Schmidt Center Art Gallery and until Nov. 13 at the Ritter Art Gallery, both on the FAU Boca Raton campus.

If you go

Out of the Book continues through Oct. 30 at the Schmidt Center Art Gallery and until Nov. 13 at the Ritter Art Gallery, both on the FAU Boca Raton campus.

- At 12:30 and 2:30 on Saturday and Sunday, art students will give talks and tours.
- At 2 p.m. on Oct. 23, Linda Johnson, chair of the Department of Visual Arts and Art History, and Kate Schmitt, assistant professor of English and curators of the show, will discuss book art.
- All gallery talks begin at the Schmidt Center Gallery.
- The first FAU Fine Arts Festival, with ceramics, drawings, design, photography, painting, printmaking and sculpture will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday at the FAU Visual Arts Center on the Boca Raton campus.
- The festival includes art for sale with prices from $10 to $10,000. 10 artist talks each day, art studio tours, galleries, food and beverages.
- There will be two showings of Six Degrees of Separation, at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are $20.
- There will be music performances at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday.
- All proceeds benefit FAU art students and programs.
- Parking is free in the southeast parking garage.
- For information, phone (561) 297-3871, e-mail art@fau.edu or visit www.fau.edu/VAAH.

Mud Book is by John Cage and Lois Long. Rod Faulds, director of University Galleries at Florida Atlantic University, is in the background.

Five Luminous Towers, a Book to be Read in the Dark is by Carol Barton. The book is laser cut paper pop-ups with offset printing, lights and batteries.