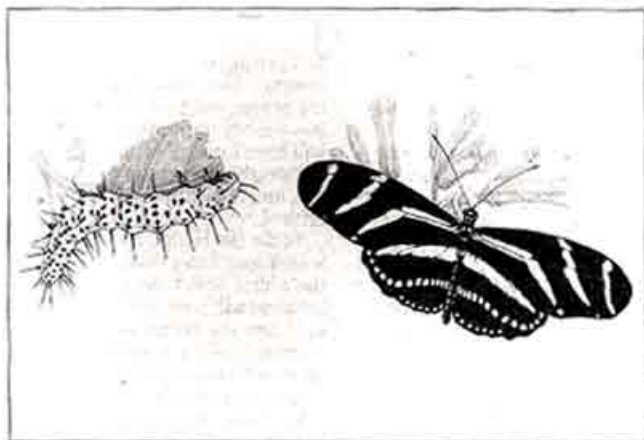


## DISCOVER LOCAL ARTISTS

10 RESIDENCES  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

Kelley Lynn McKee's graphite-on-Bristol-board creation 'Zebra Heliconian Butterfly' captures her appreciation for nature; it measures 11 by 14 inches; \$500.

## Artist's works provide beauty, make appeal for ecosystems



McKee

Kelley Lynn McKee of Jupiter collaborated with her undergraduate-thesis adviser (Jon Moore at the Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University) to develop an educational field guide to the Abacoa greenway.

With her thesis work — which earned

her the Honors College Faculty Award for Outstanding Thesis — she compiled the research and materials used for the greenway guide. The flora and fauna species that she illustrated are featured in her exhibit, "Biota of the Abacoa Greenway," at FAU's John D. MacArthur Campus library in Jupiter. The exhibit runs through Dec. 19.

McKee also co-authored the guide, which gives information on the history of the site, the social and environmental significance of the greenway, gopher-tortoise conservation, and the ecology of pine flatwoods and wetland ecosystems.

Residents of the Abacoa community enjoy social, economic, environmental and aesthetic benefits from the greenway system, according to McKee. "Covering 267 acres within the 2,050-acre Abacoa community, the greenway provides habitat for the threatened gopher tortoise and other endemic (i.e., native to or confined to a certain region) wildlife. The greenway also includes a system for water management," she explained.

As an artist and naturalist, McKee is interested in the role of art in environmental education and nature studies: "It is my experience that the study of natural history leaves a lasting impression on our hearts and minds."

She aims to offer others a better understanding of natural history and thereby promote a conservation ethic:

"My work is an appeal for the appreciation of and preservation of our natural ecosystems."

McKee's graphite works would enrich the interiors of a home. In addition, they serve as visual reminders of the beauty and richness of our varied environment.

McKee recently earned her bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts and sciences from the Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University. She received formal art training at the Hingling School of Art and Design, where she studied illustration from 2000-02.

Since graduating, McKee has been working as a freelance illustrator developing artwork for an educational children's book.

FAU's John D. MacArthur Campus library is at 5353 Parkside Drive, Jupiter. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to midnight Monday through Wednesday; 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; and 12:30 p.m. to midnight Sunday.

For more information on the exhibit, contact Diane Arrieta at (561) 799-8530 or darrieta@fau.edu



'Pine Lily,' left, and 'Warblers,' below, are graphite-on-Bristol-board works; each measures 11 by 14 inches; \$500 each.

