‘Conceptual Narrative: Mixed Media from the Chodorkoff Collection’ on Exhibition at FAU’s Library through January

BOCA RATON, FL (November 21, 2011) – Florida Atlantic University’s Wimberly Library is hosting “Conceptual Narrative: Mixed Media from the Chodorkoff Collection,” an exhibition of contemporary fine art and crafts from its Drs. J. Rosmarin Chodorkoff and B. Chodorkoff Collection, through Tuesday, January 31, 2012, on FAU’s Boca Raton campus.

The exhibition features an eclectic mix of glass, fiber, ceramics, painting, sculptures and prints by several established artists, including Dale Chihuly, Ed Rossbach, William Morris and Clifford Rainey, as well as works by emerging artists.

Lush, rich and colorful glass art works are shown throughout the exhibition. There are stunning pieces created from hot-blown glass and cold glass; glass that has been slumped, molded, etched, sandblasted, painted, cut with a diamond saw, leaded and electro-formed. There is flat glass, pate de verre, lampwork and sand-cast glass.

Two “Venetians” from the series of seductive glass sculptures created by Chihuly, a pre-eminent contemporary glass artist, as a tribute to Venice and its alluring artistic influence, are among the featured works.

A basket with an All-American motif, “Salvation Basket,” by internationally-recognized textile artist John Garrett, who is known for his use of textile technologies and imagery with various materials, is featured among the array of baskets.

“Site,” a 30-inch high glazed and ceramic bust that was created as a self-portrait by artist John Woodward, who spent time framing houses as a construction worker, is one of the pieces of art shown by up-and-coming artists.

The art was collected by Dr. Bernard Chodorkoff, a retired psychoanalyst/psychiatrist and educator, and his wife, Dr. Joan Rosmarin Chodorkoff, a retired clinical psychologist. The couple began gifting their collection to FAU Libraries in 2007. Most of the 120 pieces in the libraries’ collection are on display.
“Conceptual Narrative,” the exhibition’s title, was drawn from the couple’s attraction to conceptually meaningful art works that comment on social issues or personal relationships and use symbolic imagery.

“If the commentary is playful, witty or satirical, so much the better,” said Bernard Chodorkoff. “We respond to art that is aesthetically and/or technically experimental, yet definitely resolved. This partly explains our preference for multi-media work.”

“The most enjoyable phase of collecting followed after establishing guidelines for acquiring pieces,” said Joan Chodorkoff. “It fostered the confidence and courage that permitted risk-taking and the adventure of choosing emerging artists. When the mind’s reasons consent to the spontaneous ‘aha’ on first viewing a piece of art, it is very much like falling in love.”

Selected artists’ books from the library’s Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts are displayed to complement the exhibition. After the exhibition ends in January, the library will continue to feature pieces from the Chodorkoff collection in its atrium lobby.

The exhibition, which is free and open to the public, is displayed in the atrium lobby, on the second floor west outside of the administrative offices and in the Jaffe Center on the third floor east. Hours are available by calling 561-297-3770 or at www.library.fau.edu/geninfo/hours.htm. For more information, contact Terri Berns at tberns@fau.edu or 561-297-1164.

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Cutline:
Photo #2: “Ochre Venetian” by Dale Chihuly.
Photo #3: “Salvation Basket” by John Garrett.

About Florida Atlantic University:
Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. In commemoration of its origin, FAU is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout 2011. Today, the University serves more than 29,000 undergraduate and graduate students on seven campuses and sites. FAU’s world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.