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PBYCRVThe Fine Arts Gallery

Florida International University has completed only a first half decade of its history. During these years it has added facilities as rapidly as possible, classrooms, lecture halls, laboratories, a library. This past year, its fifth, the University reached out to add another essential facility, the Fine Arts Gallery, for which the Fine Arts faculty has been waiting, some patiently, some not so patiently. Repeated appeals had been made for a gallery facility. The opportunity finally came with the renovation of the first floor of Primera Casa when the Library moved to its new building. The University committed substantial square footage. Professors Frank Wyroba and James Couper worked with the architects to develop the design for the facility.

The Gallery is a large, spacious, and well-lighted facility. The main area has a 16-foot high ceiling, with the auxiliary area, 12 feet. The irregular free-flowing pattern of space permits the scheduling of several exhibits at the same time. The lighting system is highly flexible with dimming capabilities at every point in the Gallery. A contiguous, open but covered concrete deck will make possible the exhibition of very large sculpture. Sufficient storage and work space were programmed into the final plans. And a security system was designed and installed to provide complete electronic surveillance from within the facility and additionally from remote University Security locations.

The Fine Arts Gallery (cont.)

The purposes of the Fine Arts Gallery parallel those of the University: instruction, public service, and international understanding. The Gallery provides an opportunity for students and faculty members to share their creative work with each other and the entire campus community. In addition, the Gallery displays traveling exhibition and experimental projects. All exhibits are open to the community. Finally, the Gallery has sought to exhibit the work of artists from abroad and other work of significance to the entire world community.

Professor James Couper has been serving as Director of the Gallery in addition to being Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts. The Gallery receives some operational funding from the Division of Academic Affairs. However, its entire exhibition budget is provided by a handsome allocation of resources from the Student Government Association.

Among the exhibitions of particular note already held are the following:

Lines of Vision: Contemporary Latin American Drawings.

100 examples of the best drawings of contemporary Latin American artists.

Alberto Giacometti - Draftsman and Sculptor. Examples of sculpture, drawings and graphics by one of the most important artists of the twentieth century.

The Fine Arts Gallery (cont.)

Plans for the year ahead include the following:

Select Contemporary Black Artists. A sampling of work being done by contemporary Black American artists.

Chinese Porcelains.

The Nazi Drawings of Maurice Lasansky. Powerful expressions against Nazi atrocities by an outstanding contemporary artist.

The Texturology Series of Jean Dubuffet. An important series of works by one of the world's leading living artists.

An Annual Student Show.

It has been said that the experience of visiting an exhibition in a gallery opens our eyes to the visual richness in the total world about us. This past year Florida International University added this important capacity to its many others.