

## **FKCC Library Gallery Exhibits Photography and Sculpture Collections**



Two pieces featured in the latest exhibit in the FKCC Library Gallery: “Cluster” by Jackie Sanchez and “Wooden Bridge- Mongolia” by Ellen Westbrook.

KEY WEST, FL, September 20, 2011—Florida Keys Community College’s Library Gallery will exhibit two complimentary, yet distinct art collections September 26 through November 1, with an opening reception on Thursday, September 29 at 5:30p.m. The event, sponsored by The Friends of the FKCC Library and the FKCC Foundation, is free and open to the community.

Both collections were created by local artists. Jackie Sanchez’s “STEEL” includes 25 welded abstract sculptures and “Journey Unknown” is a 30-piece photography collection of Ellen Westbrook’s world travels.

Sanchez has been an artist for most of her life, but only active within the local art scene since her retirement as a middle school art teacher in 1992. Equipped with a master’s degree in art history, Sanchez’s endeavors in welding did not begin until taking a Specialized Welding course at FKCC under former instructor Sparky Carbonell.

The inspiration for each piece within the “STEEL” collection differs, but they combine to make a bold, cohesive compilation. Unlike many other metal sculptors who work with found metal, most

of Sanchez's pieces are constructed of shapes cut from steel sheets and kept as clean and clear of rust as possible, then sealed with clear enamel.

Westbrook's passion for art ignited about a decade ago when she resumed traveling after raising her family in Key West. She is a graduate of FKCC, as well as a dedicated continuing education student, spending more than 12 years studying ceramics with popular FKCC instructor and accomplished potter Jay Gogin.

As a world traveler and humanitarian, Westbrook's "Journey Unknown" collection of digital photographs captures her encounters with exotic places, people, and architectural structures.

"I am inspired by nature and difference in cultures," said Westbrook. "The photos evoke the emotion in the recollection of that moment."

FKCC's Library Gallery hosts local and visiting artists and writers throughout the year as part of their ongoing efforts to provide culturally enriching, educational experiences for FKCC students, faculty, staff, and the Keys community at large. For more information, please contact the FKCC Library Gallery at 305-809-3194 or [library@fkcc.edu](mailto:library@fkcc.edu).

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