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Pieces of prestigious collection at NSU

By Scott Fishman // APRIL 16, 2015

Selections from the de la Cruz Collection in Miami have made their way for the first time to the gallery in Nova Southeastern University's Alvin Sherman Library in Davie.

The exhibit, on display through May 4, showcases the artistic talents of Kathryn Andrews, Rachel Harrison, Paulina Olowaska and Dana Schutz. The partnership is part of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz's dedication to broaden their outreach, said Ibett Yanez, de la Cruz Collection director.

"This exhibit is an introduction," Yanez said. "Rosa and Carlos are very big on education. ... For us, it's really important to have this unifying idea of representing women artists, but also representing that although using vastly different media, they are approaching contemporary perspectives on authorship, monumentality and the figure, which is of most importance for this exhibition."

Even before going upstairs to the gallery, a mobile sculpture by Olowaska greets visitors on the library's main floor. "Car Mobile" is a 2009 work featuring a couple in a Volkswagen convertible. This is a favorite of Nora Quinlan, director of reference and instructional library services.

"This is really an amazing exhibit," she said. "... I've been down to the de la Cruz many times, and this is like having this whole art culture that is Miami coming here into Broward County, as well."

The gallery features many unique pieces. Andrews' "Return to X" features a steel structure with a clown suit hanging on it, and Harrison's "Voyage of the Beagle, Two" is a look at history with some humor sprinkled in through a series of photographs inspired by Charles Darwin's voyage on the HMS Beagle, which led him to publish "On the Origin of Species."

Schutz's "Wrong Objects Saved for the Future" is a time capsule of culture and history, featuring Michael Jackson, a disco ball, the iconic "Abbey Road" Beatles cover and an iPod.

Harriett MacDougall, the library's senior executive director, said the free exhibit is a most welcome addition.

"There is such a variety [of displays at the library], but it's always focused on education or any kind of educational experience we can provide that relates to the exhibit," she said.