

University of Maine at Fort Kent

Valley Vission – News/Nouvelles

**Blake Gallery to feature works of UMFK students in Therese Provenzano's art classes**

June 17, 2005  
NR05097

**Fort Kent** - The University of Maine at Fort Kent Blake Library Gallery is featuring the work of students in Therese Provenzano's Painting the Maine Landscape and Printmaking classes, two summer art courses recently offered at UMFK. The exhibition will remain on display through June 30.

The opening for the exhibit will be held on Wednesday, June 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., to provide the public with an opportunity to meet the students and the instructor.

Emphasis was placed on how materials, techniques, and painting directly on location can inform the painting process and visual discovery. Students committed to one medium, to watercolor, oil, or pastel for the duration of the course.

"Unfortunately, we had quite a bit of rain for the first two weeks, which kept the students indoors." "The last week of the course brought sunshine where we caravanned to a site on Route 11 located near the town line of Fort Kent and Wallagrass," said Provenzano

"Visually what is of interest to one individual differs from the next, this particular site offered diversity and a safe place to set up near the road," commented Provenzano.

The main objective in Provenzano's printmaking class focused on "monotypes", which are paintings that are hand printed on paper. Students made use of black and white as well as color and learned about the use of collage and photographic imagery.

"What is exciting about monotypes is that the results are often accidental. What you think you are going to get in a printed image is not necessarily what you end up with", said Provenzano.



*University of Maine at Fort Kent student Jake Carlson, a student in Therese Provenzano's Painting the Maine Landscape class, works on one of his paintings.*

Students that are represented in the show are: Jake Carlson of Rockland, Betty Desjardin and Apryl Gagnon of Eagle Lake, Chana Elliott of Frenchville, Rachel Posocco of New Sweden, Kathy Plourde of Ellenton, Florida and Molly Ritz of Fort Kent.

Provenzano is currently working on her master of fine arts degree from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She holds a bachelor of fine arts from Philadelphia College of Art and a three year certificate of completion in the fine arts from the National Academy of Design School of Fine Arts.

She has recently received her second Artist in Residency Grant from the Vermont Studio Center. Provenzano has received recognition for her work through numerous prizes, scholarships and awards.

The exhibit may be viewed during regular library summer hours. For more information contact Sophia Birden, gallery curator at 834-7527.

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### **Blake Gallery to feature "Seven Directions" The Art of Joan Lee**

August 12, 2005

NR05117



*One of the many pieces of artwork by Joan Lee on display in the University of Maine at Fort Kent Blake Library Gallery through September 30. (Photograph copyright JHLee.)*

**Fort Kent** - The University of Maine at Fort Kent Blake Library Gallery is featuring the art of Joan H. Lee in an exhibit entitled "Seven Directions", which will run August 19 and remain on display through September 30.

According to Lee, "Seven Directions" refers to the traditional directions of north, east, south, west, up, down, and right here.

"The pictures are inspired by different places, ideas and times, all coming together right here. I have ready to show expressive art, as well as a few examples of natural science illustration," said Lee.

Lee is an artist who has had many opportunities to experience and appreciate the cultural and geographic diversity of this country, and to accept as natural the many differences as well as similarities that we share.

"I have included local places in the exhibit," said Lee. "I am a resident of the St. John Valley, and it often takes a while to really absorb a place so that I can understand it and say something worthwhile about it in visual terms."

Included in the exhibit is a sample of tools for making illuminations. Illumination is a decorative art in which gold is used as one of the elements in a composition.

Also on display are some of the tools of the trade for making natural science drawings. Natural Science Illustration is usually defined as "art in the service of science".

Lee is an expressive artist and a natural science illustrator in the areas of botany, archeology and anthropology. She teaches botanical illustrations and nature art in museums and adult education settings.

"Expressive art and science illustration are widely different disciplines, with different objectives and techniques and I am comfortable in working with both," states Lee.

She received her bachelor of arts degree in English and earned a master's degree in comparative literature from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Lee also received a certificate in law for community developers from John Marshall Law School and studied publishing at the University of Chicago.

She studied science illustration at the Field Museum of National History in Chicago, and art (life drawing) from the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts.

"I have been an artist and writer my entire life," said Lee. "When I was a child and people asked what I wanted to be when I grew up it was such an odd question. I simply knew I was an artist"

Lee has exhibited in national juried competitions and in solo exhibits, including the Denver Botanical Garden Gallery in Colorado, National Wildlife Gallery in Arlington, Virginia, and New Mexico State Museum.

She has completed illustrations for Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist, Audubon Society and others. Judson College in Illinois made a purchase award of one of her watercolors

Lee is a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, for which she has presented papers on art, and co-founded the Chicago chapter.

Lee has recently returned from the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators 2005 conference held at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. At the conference, she presented a session entitled "How NOT To Begin a Freelance Business". Lee notes that beginning a freelance business isn't easy, but there are ways to make it easier.

The exhibit may be viewed during Blake Library hours. For more information regarding the exhibit, call Sofia Birden, gallery curator at (207) 834-7527.

A reception for the artist will be held on Friday, September 16, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to coincide with UMFK's Come to Campus Days festivities.

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**UMFK's Blake Library Art Gallery exhibit celebrates Down Syndrome awareness month**

September 30, 2005  
NR05151

**Fort Kent** - In recognition of October as National Down Syndrome Awareness month, the University of Maine at Fort Kent Blake Library Art Gallery is displaying an exhibit of oil paintings by Fort Kent artist Erika Thiele through October 30.

Thiele, who was born with Down Syndrome, first discovered her special talent as a senior at Fort Kent Community High School in an art class taught by Priscilla Daigle. She has also taken private lessons from local artist Gert Thibodeau and classes through the adult education program at M.S.A.D. 27.

The collection features more than a dozen oil paintings of beautiful landscapes and flowers that she has been working on over several years.

Among her favorite works are renditions of Monet and Van Gogh, classic landscapes and impressionist art, as well as seasonal scenes and still life images of flowers and vases.

Thiele has exhibited her paintings throughout the state, including shows in Augusta, Waterville, Bethel and Bath. She has been recognized by both Cary Medical Center in Caribou and the Aroostook Medical Center in Presque Isle as an "artist of the month."

In the last several years, Thiele's works have also begun drawing national recognition from such groups as the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) in New York City.

The NDSS selected two of her paintings as the cover prints for invitations to the annual Professional Women's Luncheon Series in New York City and Los Angeles.

Thiele's art work has strengthened her own self-confidence and pride in her abilities and serves as a model for what people with disabilities can accomplish when given a chance.



*Fort Kent Artist Erika Thiele with one of her paintings on display this month in the Blake Library Gallery at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.*

The exhibitions have created great interest in Thiele's work, and as a result, she has sold several paintings in recent years. Individuals interested in purchasing a painting should contact Thiele at 834-3820.

She is also a talented poetry writer, having had several pieces of her work published in national magazines.

Thiele is the daughter of Edeltraut Thiele and Dr. Eberhard Thiele of Fort Kent.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular library hours through October 30.

National Down Syndrome Awareness month, celebrated in October, aims to educate and make aware to the community the risks, symptoms and treatments for Down Syndrome. According to the National Down Syndrome Society in America, there are approximately 350,000 people with Down Syndrome.

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**Northern sea and coastline photo exhibit coming to UMFK's Blake Library gallery**

October 28, 2005

NR05172



*One of the photos by artist Steve Young on exhibit in the Blake Gallery at the University of Maine at Fort Kent this month.*

**Fort Kent** - An exhibit of photographs, featuring a selection of landscapes of northern sea and coastline by local artist Steven Young, will be on display from November 7 through December 2, in the Blake Library Gallery at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

The exhibit entitled "Ever Been to Sea, Billy?," features a collection of Young's photographs which highlights ocean and shoreline landscape photographs taken while he was doing wildlife field work from 1978-1983.

Included are photographs taken while conducting seabird and whale surveys in the north Atlantic off Newfoundland (to the Flemish Cap). Other photos shown are of eider duck breeding surveys in coastal Labrador, and fisheries surveys on Japanese long line fishing vessels in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

The photographs in the show are archival digital enlargements from scans of original slides using pigment-based inks and cotton papers made at One World Artisans.



Young has been making "conventional" enlargements from black & white photographs since 1977, enlargements from color slides since 1981, and enlargements from color negatives in his darkroom since 1987.

He has previously has been involved in ten solo exhibits throughout Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. This is his first exhibit of digital enlargements.

"Digital reproduction of slides produces quality and tonality unmatched by conventional direct to positive printing, and well as much improved longevity (more archival) vs. conventional color prints," according to Young.

He is currently pursuing a bachelor of science degree in the Electronic Commerce at UMFK and recently helped his wife Jan to start One World Artisans (OWA), a new business located on Skyway Avenue in Frenchville. OWA offers stained-glass art and supplies, photography services (including archival digital enlargements), photography art, and unique international fair trade arts and crafts.

Young has operated a part-time photography business since 1987 and currently resides in Frenchville, Maine.

An exhibit opening will be on Saturday, November 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Blake Library Gallery. The library will not be open at this time, however, visitors to the exhibit will have access to the gallery.

For more information on the exhibit or library hours, contact Sofia Birden, gallery curator at 834-7527.

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**Blake Gallery to feature work of UMFK students in Paul Gebhardt's art classes**

December 2, 2005

NR05196

**Fort Kent** - The University of Maine at Fort Kent Blake Library Art Gallery will feature the works of students in UMFK assistant professor of art and art education Paul Gebhardt's art fundamentals and printmaking classes. The exhibit will be on display from Monday, December 12 through Friday, December 23.

Included in the showing are some extraordinary pieces that represent the students' semester work, consisting of drawings, linoleum relief prints, and three color woodcuts.

The fundamentals of art class serves as a drawing and painting foundation course. Students study observational drawing and design.

The printmaking class examines direct printmaking techniques, such as relief printing and woodcut designs.

Relief printing is a subtractive printing process where areas meant not to print are physically removed, thus resulting in the image area to be printed to be left behind and created in relief. The printing is achieved by cutting away the areas of the image, which are not meant to print. The remaining areas that are in relief are the area that will print.

Woodcut designs are first carved into wood blocks and then the ink is applied to the blocks.

The exhibit may be viewed during regular library hours. For more information contact Sophia Birden, gallery curator at 834-7527.

In addition to art exhibits in Blake Library, Gebhardt is bringing back a tradition at UMFK by having his students from both art classes display their work in the Bengal's Lair.

Selected works will be on display in December and new pieces will be exhibited in the student lounge on a rotating basis throughout the academic year.

University of Maine at Fort Kent

Valley Vision – News/Nouvelles

**"Acadian Perspectives" exhibit on display at UMFK**

February 17, 2006

NR06011

**Fort Kent** - The University of Maine at Fort Kent Blake Library Art Gallery is featuring an exhibit entitled "Acadian Perspectives" by artist and alumnus Thomas Bouchard.

His work will be on display until March 1, 2006.

Bouchard's prime motivation for his landscape photography comes from being born and brought up in an area with ample forests, fields, and lakes.

"In my native town of Fort Kent, Maine, we find all of this. A discriminating eye for landscapes was further enhanced by my technical forestry training at UMFK, as well as earning my bachelor degree in university studies in 1986," said Bouchard.

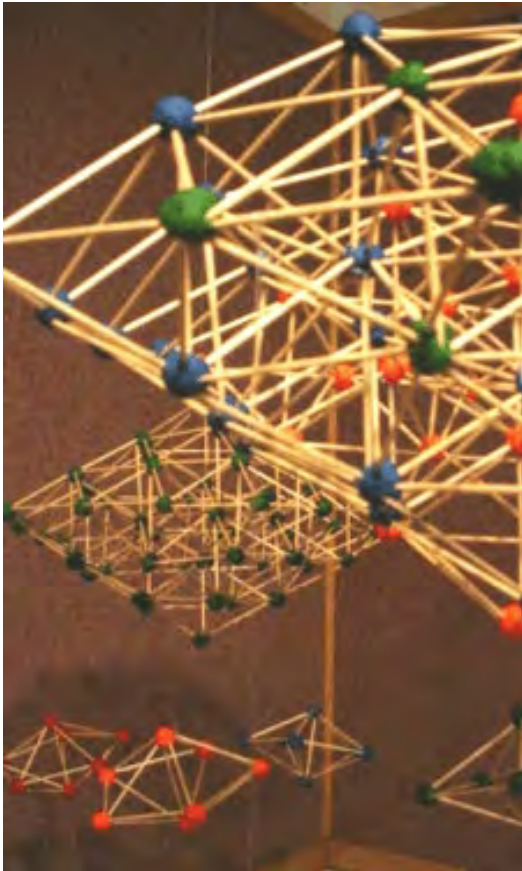
According to Bouchard, "Many thanks go out to my dad, 'Butch' Bouchard, for showing me the subsistence arts of fishing, gardening, hunting, and picking fiddleheads on the Allagash and St. John Rivers. My mom, Yolande Thibodeau-Bouchard, who kept her family well fed while imparting them with her knowledge of Acadian cooking " "On n'oubliront pas toutes les bonnes ploys manger."

Over the last two decades, the best of his photography work has come from traveling extensively to New York, California, lower St. Lawrence River and Temiscouata, Quebec.

"The interplay of light on the waterways and hills enabled me to focus on what really counts in nature," said Bouchard. "To bring out the best in landscaping photography, we leave nature as it should be, without human props. Like Ansel Adams' photos, nature is left in her bare essence, that's true beauty."

Bouchard's collection can be viewed in the Blake Library Gallery Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For more information contact Sophia Birden, gallery curator at 834-7527.



## Tensional Integrity: from angles to curves

Geometric stick constructions  
built by Eric Thorsen.

Baskets built by Edwidge  
Ouellette Michaud

March 2nd -March 20th, 2006.



In April and early May of 2006 Professor Paul Gebhardt, art teacher for UMFK, presented a student art show of drawings, paintings, and sculpture. Below is a sample of work presented. A press release was not written due to the position of Public Relations Directory not being filled as of the opening of the show.

