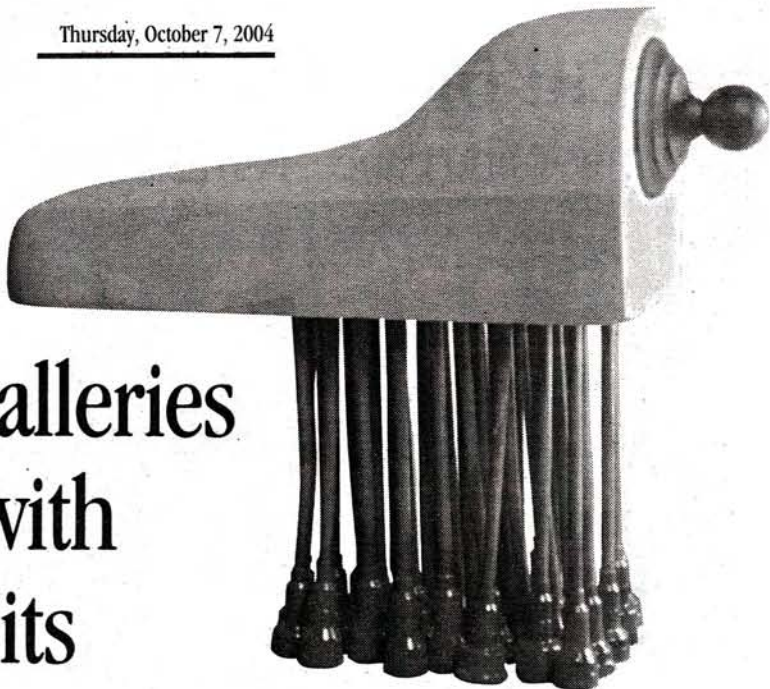


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## University Galleries mark 40th with varied exhibits

**H**appy Birthday to the University Galleries, which are celebrating 40 years of bringing ground-breaking art exhibitions to the University of Florida and, for that matter, the entire Gainesville community. Each of the three galleries debuts a new exhibition this week to celebrate this milestone.

At the University Gallery, "The Object of Time: Charting a Decade" brings the sculpture and paintings of New York-based artists Don Porcaro and Leslie Wayne. Curated by Amy Vigilante, director of the University Galleries, this 10-year retrospective includes individual works by each artist, as well as a collaborative installation comprising 80 paintings and sculptures.

Porcaro, who received an MFA in Sculpture from Columbia University in 1976, is the chair of the Fine Arts Department at New York City's Parsons School of Design. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States and in Europe.

"I am interested in the tangible relationship between the heroic aspects of sculpture and architecture, the spiritual quality of the material and the space it occupies as it relates to human encounter," Porcaro wrote in 1996.

More recently, in 2002, he stated: "Whimsy and function are great partners. I'm interested in sculpture that sits on that edge

of functionality, only to be disarmed by all the ways in which one could almost put such an object to use."

The 10-year time span highlighted in this exhibition allows the viewer to appreciate the evolution of the work — to recognize the common ground between the pieces, as well as a shift in focus.

Wayne's paintings exhibit a similar transition.

"In scanning a decade of Wayne's work, there are subtle shifts in both palette and negative/positive space relationships," Vigilante wrote in the exhibition's catalogue. "What we see overall is a continuing exploration of the language of the painting, and Abstract Expressionism's exaggerated gesture compressed and redefined in a contemporary context."

Wayne received a BFA with honors from the Parsons School of Design in 1984, and she exhibits regularly in New York City, Atlanta and Germany. Her work appears in many corporate, university and museum collections.

"The Object of Time" will remain on view at the University Gallery through Nov. 7, after which it will be exhibited at the Crossley Gallery at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota. A discussion of work by the artists will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, followed by an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m.

**"Nomad," by Don Porcaro, is now on display at University Gallery.**

Also part of the University Galleries 40-year celebration are exhibitions at the Focus Gallery and the Grinter Gallery.

At Focus, "Beyond Daily Bread: Celebration on the Table" brings together four College of Fine Arts alumni in a functional-ceramics exhibition: Kate Shakeshaft Murray, Missy McCormick, Nancy Barbour and Wynne Wilbur.

At Grinter, "Re-Collecting Iran" is a multimedia installation by Aphrodite Désirée Navab, an assistant professor at the School of Art and Art History. The installation is built upon Navab's first trip back to her native Iran after 21 years of exile.

Visit all three exhibitions at Friday's anniversary celebration.

Michelle Benatti