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Local Exhibition Holds Content for Students and Teachers

DeLand, Florida--On June 6, 2007, famed photographer Jack Mitchell inspired photography students with a Gallery Talk at the Museum of Florida Art. Nearly 200 Daytona Beach Community College students and museum members attended the lecture.



Among the photographs of the current exhibition: Jack Mitchell *Icons and Idols: A Photographer's Chronicle of the Arts 1960-1995*, students and members hung on every word as Mitchell eloquently relayed his story from behind the camera lens.

Jack Mitchell was “the” photographer of the 1960’s –1990’s New York art scene. From his studio on New York’s Upper Eastside, Mitchell photographed nearly every major figure of dance, music, art, movies and television. In each collection photograph, Mitchell masterfully bridges the gap between subject and viewer.

During the hour, students asked candid questions on techniques, composition, career and the of course, the famous subjects. Mikhail Baryshnikov, John Lennon, Leonard Bernstein, Alfred Hitchcock, Jack Nicholson, Meryl Streep, Andy Warhol, and others captured in time at the height of their careers.

On June 13, 2007, the Museum of Florida Art will host another Jack Mitchell gallery talk with Advanced Placement (AP) English educators from across the United States.

Dr. David Jolliffe, Professor of English at the University of Arkansas and Chief Reader for the Collage Board AP English Language and Composition Examination explained, “This is the first year AP High School students nationwide will be expected to interpret a visual source and then integrate that analysis into an argumentative composition in testing.”



This testing emphasis reflects a trend whereby the Collage Board understands the importance of visual literacy.

Jewell Dickson, Museum of Florida Art's Tour Coordinator stated, "Visual information, as communicated by an artist, is best interpreted by understanding the language of art, including: line, color, shape, form, etc. We seek to share our interpretive strategies with these teachers in hopes that they may use their own galleries and museums at home as a resource for learning."

The nearly 300 teachers visiting Volusia County and the Museum of Florida Art will be using the Mitchell's engaging images as the content to learn visual analysis and compositional writing strategies for their students. The student taking the AP exam will be asked to develop a position and utilize various sources to reinforce the position established utilizing visual imagery and works of art.

The Museum of Florida Art's current exhibition tour programs reinforces vocabulary, descriptive exercises of works of art and guides students through the process of interpretive review and analysis in writing exercises. Tour programs of the Museum are aligned with the Florida Sunshine State and National Education Standards.

As a Chief reader, Jolliffe noted that over 285,000 students in the US and overseas have taken this test this year with an annual growing percentage rate of 10-12%. He also noted expanded use of visual references would be incorporated in the future.

"We need to encourage our language arts teachers to partner with visual arts instructors, museum educators and even artists themselves as a resource to teach our students about visual literacy. We are surrounded by visuals all of the time. We become passive consumers of visual images, as they are background for our lives. We need to help students consider critical analysis of visual symbols so as to consider what influences they may hold and what these images communicate." Dr. Gary Hatch, Professor of English at Brigham Young University, Chief Reader Designate for the College Board



Mitchell's exhibit *Icons and Idols: A Photographer's Chronicle of the Arts, 1960-1995* will be on display in the Main Gallery at the Museum of Florida Art until June 17 on loan from the Atlantic Center for the Arts



The Museum of Florida Art is located in the Cultural Arts Center at 600 North Woodland Blvd. DeLand, FL 32720. For more information, Please contact (386) 734-4371 or visit us online at www.delandmuseum.com.

The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue where: creativity is fostered, appreciation of art is nurtured, all people are welcomed. The mission of the Museum of Florida Art is to integrate exhibitions and education to create an enriching and stimulating experience for a diverse audience. The

Museum of Florida Art offers a venue for emerging and established Florida artists to support the cultural legacy of our state.

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