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FAU Exhibition Celebrates the Centennial of Women’s Right to Vote

BOCA RATON, FL. (September 4, 2020) - The University Galleries in Florida Atlantic University’s Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters presents the online exhibition *“I’m Not Bad, I’m Just Drawn That Way” The American Woman in 100 Years of Ephemera*, from Thursday, Oct. 1 through Friday, Jan. 15, 2021. The exhibition celebrates the centennial of women’s suffrage and the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and showcases 100 years of FAU Special Collections ephemera, postcards and advertisements to understand how women are drawn. It will be online at www.fau.edu/galleries.

With images bridging 1899 to 2020, this exhibition presents a history of American visual culture. Each artifact reflects the spirit of the times, but a collective look reveals that type-cast cartooning of the female gender is unchanged. The title derives from the character of Jessica Rabbit, from the 1988 live-action animated film “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?” Jessica’s curvily drawn figure is one of those archetypal images like the *femme fatale*, the teenage sexpot, and the crotchety feminist, all of which outlive centennials. Jessica is the championing mascot for this exhibition, however, because she was also drawn as self-aware about her sexuality and its effect.

The exhibition’s pieces were curated by sorting images of women from FAU Special Collections. It explores reoccurring gendered themes like women in advertising, choice feminism, craftivism as activism, good housekeeping, suffrage and anti-suffrage messages, and war time propaganda. The exhibition was curated by Marnie Melzer, art history major, mentored and supervised by Karen J. Leader, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Art History, Department of Visual Arts and Art History, with assistance from Victoria Thur, head of FAU Libraries Special

Collections. “I’m Not Bad, I’m Just Drawn That Way,” received a generous grant from FAU’s Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI).

Critically, the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic recast women in the compulsory role of domestic goddess, and fine-tuned this exhibition’s scrutiny of the visual feminine. FAU Special Collections’ visual archive tells a story of familiar sameness, and a “return to order” for women, and this has implications for the feminist movement. The images in “I’m Not Bad, I’m Just Drawn That Way” wake us up to born again American messaging. At the same time, the exhibition glorifies feminine power and inspires change during a pivotal historical renovation. While cataloguing, Melzer contemplated her own personas as citizen, lawyer, wife, mother, historian and feminist. And in the words of art historian and feminist Linda Nochlin, quoted by fellow art historian Moira Roth, “Nothing, I think, is more interesting, more poignant and more difficult to seize, than the intersection of self and history.”

The exhibition is part of “A Four Exhibition Look at Our Past, Present and Future Politics,” a suite of exhibitions on the occasion of the 2020 presidential election. All four exhibitions can be accessed beginning October 1, 2020 through www.fau.edu/galleries.

The University Galleries Museum Education Program is continuing its programs virtually employing some content from “A Four Exhibition Look at Our Past, Present and Future Politics,” including school partnerships with area schools and its Artist Mentorship Program with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County. Ashley Utley is the Galleries 2020/2021 Museum Education Coordinator. For more information: autley2018@fau.edu

University Galleries exhibitions and programs are supported by the Isadore and Kelly Friedman University Galleries Fund; Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs and Florida Council on the Arts; and Cultural Council of Palm Beach County. Museum Education programs are made possible by the Kaye Arts Integration Endowment.

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About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu

“I’m Not Bad, I’m Just Drawn That Way”

The American Woman in 100 Years of Ephemera

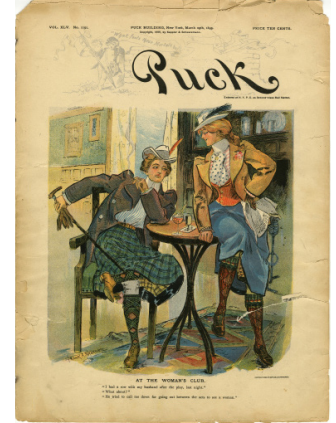
Curated by Marnie Melzer, Florida Atlantic University
Supervised by Karen J. Leader Ph.D., Associate Professor of Art History
October 1, 2020 - January 15, 2021

A Four Exhibition Look At Our
Past, Present & Future
Politics

ONLINE : October 1, 2020

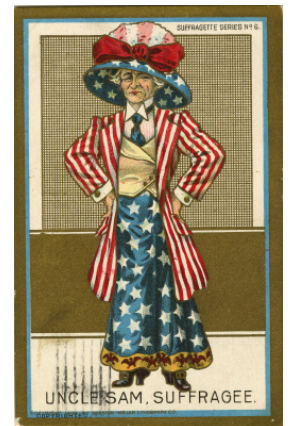
Frank A. Nankivell

“At the Woman’s Club,” *Puck Magazine*, March 29, 1899
cover illustration, copyright Keppler & Schwarzmann
Courtesy of FAU Libraries Special Collections



Dunston Weiler Lithograph Co.

“Suffragette Series No 6: Uncle Sam, Suffragee”, 1909
postcard
Courtesy of FAU Libraries Special Collections



Beals, Des Moines, Iowa

“I Used to Worry About Styles / This Will Suit Me From Now On”
postcard, circa 1940-1945,
Courtesy of FAU Libraries Special Collections



Carolyn Diehl

The Moving Target, J. Walter Thompson Company, 1974
Reproduced with kind permission, Rena Bartos Papers,
Rubenstein Library, Duke University



“I’m Not Bad, I’m Just Drawn That Way”

The American Woman in 100 Years of Ephemera

October 1, 2020 - January 15, 2021

George Hurrell

photograph of Jane Wyman, 1939

Life Magazine Anniversary Issue, “50 Years,” September 1986,

Courtesy of FAU Libraries Special Collections



ONLINE : October 1, 2020



Lucian Perkins

You Call This Shipshape, Mister ?

photograph of Midshipman First Class Sandy Erwin,

Life Magazine, “The 70s,” December 1979

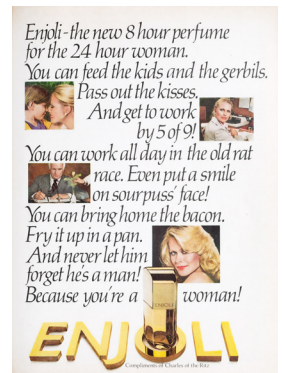
Courtesy of FAU Libraries Special Collections



Enjoli advertisement

Vogue Magazine, October 1978

Courtesy of FAU Libraries Special Collections



Jay Vollmar

Look Silly Today. Feel Good Tomorrow. Protect Yourself From Covid-19, 2020

poster, Graphic Business Solutions, erase.covid.com,

Courtesy of FAU Libraries Special Collections

