

Making Art Out of Words

Written by Anne Tschida, BT Arts Editor
March 2014

A local couple share their love -- and collection -- of visual poetry



It was a gorgeous February Sunday in Miami, and everyone lucky enough to be here should have been basking in the outdoors. But by midday there was already a steady flow of visitors to the Pérez Museum of Art Miami, a testimony to the strength of our latest cultural addition.

In one gallery, a mix of students, art professionals, and art aficionados was taking in a guided tour of the exhibit “A Human Document: Selections from the Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry,” and they were spellbound -- not just by the works on view, but by their docents, none other than Ruth and Marvin Sackner, owners of said archive.

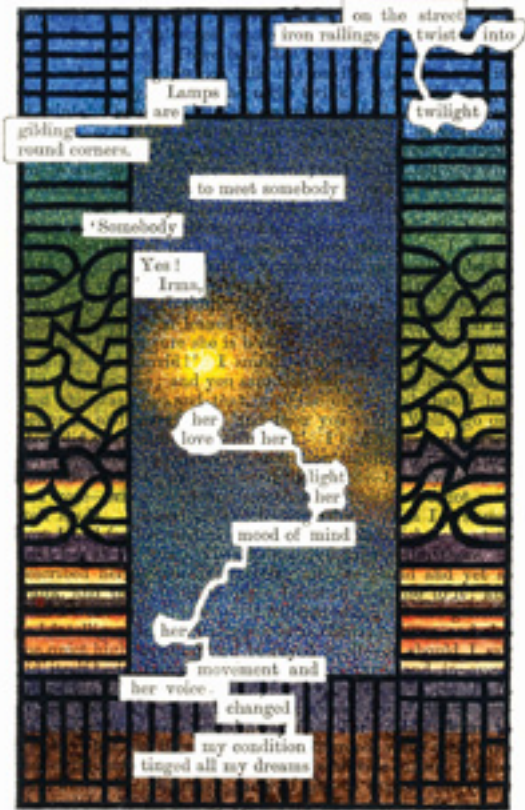
Welcome to their world of concrete and visual poetry, where the spatial arrangements of words, and the uses of typographical elements, and even collage and paints, combine to form visual art. The designs can evoke or even depict the meanings of the words that comprise the artwork; or they can be abstract word compositions whose shapes have little to do with the words employed. Among the works on view are those that incorporate text; art made from books that have been manipulated; and art created by the pictorial arrangements of words and letters.

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A HUMAN DOCUMENT.



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letters@biscaynatimes.com