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FAU University Galleries Presents 'Paul Peter Piech: Activist Prints from the 1970s and '80s'

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 "Paul Peter Piech: Activist Prints from the 1970s and '80s" from Thursday, Oct. 1 through Friday, Jan. 15, 2021. The exhibition will be accessible at www.fau.edu/galleries.

Paul Peter Piech (1920-1996) was a Brooklyn-born humanitarian, graphic designer and prolific printmaker. Piech spent most of his career in Great Britain, beginning in London and moving later to Wales. His prints almost always included uniquely styled expressionistic lettering innovatively coupled with compelling figurative images.

"Piech's output was colossal and inspired by politics, global and humanitarian concerns, and his desire to provoke debate about contemporary issues," said British art historian Jim Creed. His linocut prints are created with such fervor that some even include misspellings. Piech was not concerned with his prints being perfect. He printed on cheap, readily available papers and was not very precious in his care of them. They were affordably created and sold for the purpose of spreading the message each print put forth.

Piech's graphic messages include, according to Creed, "increasingly aggressive, powerful, and reflective images and quotations" dealing with themes of power, racism, equality, torture, war, national identity and politics. The issues addressed in his activist prints from the '70s and '80s continue to be relevant over 40 years later, and Piech's works resonate with conviction in the context of the global pandemics related to public health and systemic racism.

When Piech passed away in 1996 he had gained significant recognition internationally as a graphic designer and printmaker. His work is held in collections around the world including a substantial collection at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

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. Like the other exhibitions in the series, the Paul Peter Piech exhibition resonates with the current social and political moment that is America in 2020. The exhibition is curated by recent FAU Department of Visual Arts and Art History graduate Ashley Utley and current FAU student Daniela Andrade with W. Rod Faulds, University Galleries director serving as curatorial adviser. They have selected 38 prints from a collection of 88 prints in FAU’s art collection and the project is functioning to demonstrate that FAU’s art holdings can engage FAU art majors in career-oriented work related to positions in art museums, arts organizations and commercial galleries including research, documentation, presentation and arts education.

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

Paul Peter Piech:

Activist Prints from the 1970s and '80s

Curators: Ashley Utley and Daniela Andrade

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

ONLINE : October 1, 2020

Paul Peter Piech

Can I See Another's Woe, William Blake, 1971

Linocut print, 17 ¾ x 25 ¼ inches

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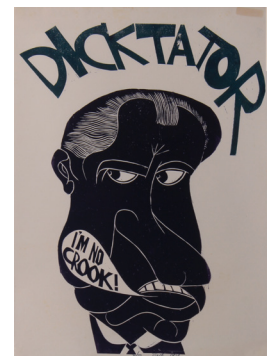


Paul Peter Piech

Dicktator, 1973

Linocut print, 22/50, 23 x 16 ¼ inches

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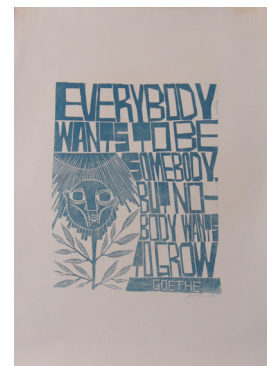


Paul Peter Piech

Everybody Wants to be Somebody, 1983

Linocut print, 25 ¼ x 17 ¾ inches

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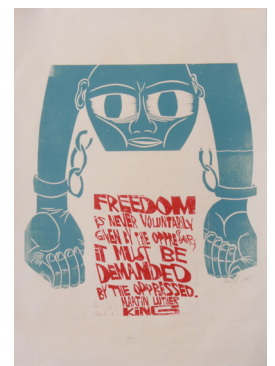


Paul Peter Piech

Freedom is Never Voluntarily Given, Martin Luther King Jr., 1983

Linocut print, 30 x 20 inches

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Paul Peter Piech:

Activist Prints from the 1970s and 80s

October 1, 2020 - January 15, 2021



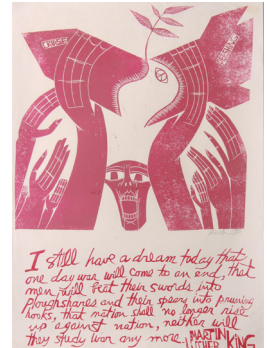
ONLINE : October 1, 2020

Paul Peter Piech

I Still Have a Dream, Martin Luther King Jr., 1983

Linocut print, 28 ¾ x 19 ¼ inches

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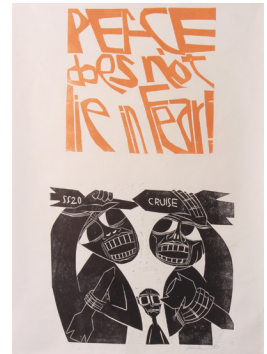


Paul Peter Piech

Peace Does Not Lie in Fear, 1983

Linocut print, 30 x 20 inches

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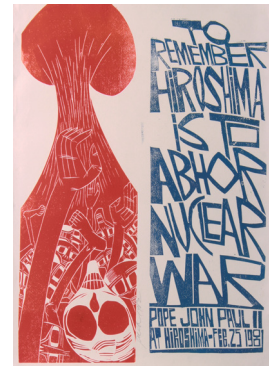


Paul Peter Piech

To Remember Hiroshima, Pope John Paul II, 1982

Linocut print, 35 x 22 inches

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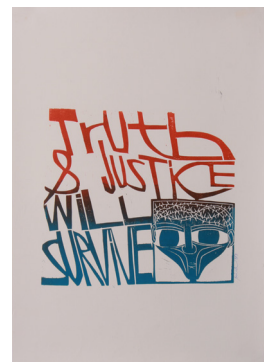


Paul Peter Piech

Truth & Justice Will Survive, 1983

Linocut print, 17 ¾ x 25 ¼ inches

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Paul Peter Piech

Above all I Would Like to Believe, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1982

Linocut print, 17 3/4 x 25 1/4 inches

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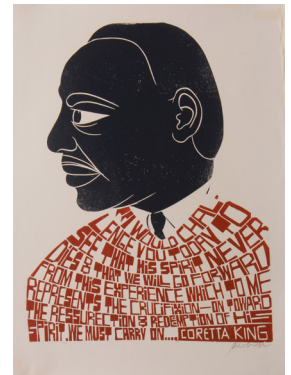


Paul Peter Piech

I Would Challenge You Today, Coretta King, 1982

Linocut print, 23 1/2 x 17 3/4 inches

Reproduced with kind permission from the Paul Peter Piech Estate



Paul Peter Piech

Peace, Multilingual, 1983

Linocut print, 24 x 16 3/4 inches

Reproduced with kind permission from the Piech Estate



Paul Peter Piech

There is Hardly, Duke Ellington, 1980

Linocut print, 18 3/4 x 27 inches

Reproduced with kind permission from the Paul Peter Piech Estate

