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FAU Exhibition Features Pop Culture Political Paraphernalia and Contemporary Artworks Associated With the Current Election

BOCA RATON (Month Day, 2016) – The University Galleries in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters at Florida Atlantic University will present *Political Sideshow 2016: From “Bitch” to (Big) “Nuts” and Beyond*, an exhibition presenting election campaign paraphernalia and contemporary artworks by Kenneth Tin-Kin Hung, Pip Brant, Jamilah Sabur, Veronica Mills, Aurora Molina & Randy Burman examining the current presidential campaign. The exhibition will take place from Friday October 7 through Saturday, December 3 in the Schmidt Center Public Space located in the hallway outside of the Schmidt Center Gallery on FAU’s Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road. There will be an opening reception and a one night only *Vent-o-matic* performance with Randy Burman on Thursday, October 6 from 6:00 to 8 p.m. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. Public programs are to be announced.

The exhibition is the brainchild of co-curator and FAU professor Jane Caputi, Ph.D (Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies; Communication & Multimedia) in conjunction with FAU alum and adjunct professor AdrienneRose Gionta, MFA, the exhibition’s designer and co-curator. *Political Sideshow 2016* will feature bumper stickers, posters, t-shirts, buttons, caps and other paraphernalia related to this historic and controversial election. The aptly named “sideshow” portion of the exhibit will present samples of artifacts referring to multiple candidates and issues and embody the journey leading up to the electoral event. The ones selected address race, class, gender, national origin, sexuality and the ways that these issues are at play in the current election. The exhibition hopes to further ongoing public discussion about engaged citizenship, democratic values, social justice, civil discourse, community amidst differences, and the past, present and future of what is commonly understood as a shared American dream of equality, freedom and prosperity.

The opening “2008 Political Circus” section harkens back to the 2008 presidential election. It features vitriolic imagery rife with racist stereotypes directed at Barack and Michelle Obama. Some items racially disparage Obama based on his ethnic background and his supposed status as a “closeted Muslim.” Other pieces will reference the infamous “birther” conspiracy, misogynist aspersions against Hillary Clinton, sexually objectifying and class-based slurs against Sarah Palin, and ageist insults directed at the aforementioned Clinton and Republican presidential candidate John McCain.

One portion of the exhibit will examine the American icon of the baseball cap. Donald Trump’s signature “Make America Great Again” slogan is emblazoned on a baseball cap he often wears. Like any good slogan, this is subject to interpretation and rebuttal –including those featured on caps like “Make America Hate Again,” “Make America Mexico Again,” “Make America Native Again” and more. Another section explores the sexism and misogyny directed at Hillary Clinton as the first female candidate nominated by a major party. Along with this material, the gallery will delve deeper into the mystique behind the “true owners” of America and will challenge the notion of *America* as being representative only of those who are politically conservative, heterosexual, Christian and European-American.

Other sections of the exhibit will explore themes of classism, genital politics, notions of xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia, ageism, mythic archetypes, political correctness, and what the paraphernalia suggests about how some citizens perceive the future of the country in relation to their political affiliations.

Political Sideshow has received support from FAU and the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters through the Agora Project; School of the Arts; Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies; and the Peace, Justice and Human Rights Initiative. University Galleries programs are supported in part by the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Florida Arts Council; the Palm Beach County Cultural Council; the R.A. Ritter Foundation; and Beatrice Cummings Mayer. The University Galleries are open Tuesday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Class and group tours are welcome during public hours or at alternative times by appointment. For more information, call 561-297-2966 or visit www.fau.edu/galleries.

Political Sideshow 2016: From “Bitch” to (Big) “Nuts” and Beyond

Schmidt Center Public Space

October 6 - December 3, 2016

For high resolution images contact:

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It's Crunch Time America!

nut cracker, figurine

11.75 x 2.25 in



Hillary as Wonder Woman Red T-Shirt

red T-Shirt

32.5 X 27 in.



Make America Hate Again Cap

trucker cap

11 x 8 x 5 in



Make America Mexico Again Cap

red velcro hat

11 x 8 x 5 in



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Trump I Have Serious Balls 2016
poster
13.75 x 16 in



Trump That Bitch!
bumper Sticker
3.25 x 9 in



Socialist Hag Hillary
bumper Sticker
6 x 6 in



Obama put America in the toilet. Vote hillary and she will flush it.
bumper sticker
2.5 x 7.75 in



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Randy Burman

The Vent-o-matic - a cathARTic Public Health Service, 2016
mixed media installation
72 x 288 in.



Pip Brant

I ♥ Hillary, 2016
animation



Aurora Molina

Candidates and the President, 2016
mixed media, motion sensed puppets
96 x 60 in.



Jamilah Sabur & Veronica Mills

Frankenstein, 2016
digital print
36 x 48 in.



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Kenneth Tin- Kin Hung

#SHITWARS- *THE SHIT AWAKENS*, 2016
interactive web-based animation

