

DISCOVER LOCAL ARTISTS



Sibel Kocabasi, left, created 'The Golden Egg,' far left, an oil-on-canvas, 36 by 60 inches; \$3,800.

Art connections

Gavlak in West Palm Beach is celebrating its second Palm Beach Biennial exhibit, featuring six artists with Florida ties, through Aug. 23.

Sibel Kocabasi of West Palm Beach has studied rug-kilim design, natural dyes, conservation and restoration of textiles, traditional embroidery designs, and illumination of manuscripts.

She received her bachelor of fine arts degree in Turkish traditional arts from Marmara University of Fine Arts and her master of fine arts degree in painting from Florida Atlantic University.

Two years ago, she began to work on a bird series. Her birds, at first, were whimsical. Later they became politically inspired portraits. *The Golden Egg*, the last piece of her bird series, represents hope.

Sue Stevens of West Palm Beach attends FAU. In the summer of 2006, she attended the Parsons School of Design's Integrated Design Studies Program. She is currently enrolled in the New York school's summer 2008 Fine Arts Studio Practices Program.

The meaning of her work lies in how viewers become aware of the historical and sociopolitical framework that surrounds a given situation, and how viewers are affected by those dynamics.

Stevens addresses the development of technology as it relates to control and personal and societal experience. There are elements of allure but also anxiety.

"In *Covert Conversion*, I evoke a sense of our current surveillance society, while referencing the media celebration of culture jamming," she said.

"Culture jamming" is an individualistic turning away from the "herd mentality."

Doug Crocco of West Palm Beach started high school at Design and Architecture Senior High in Miami and graduated from Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts in West Palm Beach. He attended Florida State University and the University of Miami.

He later earned his MFA from Claremont Graduate University in Los Angeles.

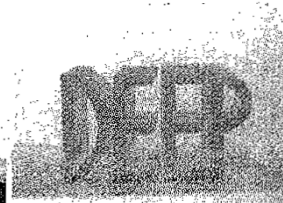
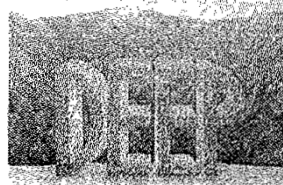
Crocco, who works in color pencil, creates highly detailed drawings that often tackle serious issues but strive to maintain a light and often humorous tone.

In *Deep*, Crocco addresses the water crisis and the ongoing debates over water rights while poking fun at the notion that high art needs to be "deep."

Gavlak is at 3300 S. Dixie Highway, Suite 4, West Palm Beach. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment. For information, call (561) 833-0583 or visit www.gavlakprojects.com



Sue Stevens, left, created 'Covert Conversion,' above. Dimensions vary; \$2,500.



Doug Crocco, left, created 'Deep,' above, a prismacolor-on-paper triptych, 57 by 24 inches; \$5,500.