

art 

Ex Libris, Show Me the Water

Bookplates — also known as ex libris — were once used to identify the owners of books but also evolved into vehicles for political commentary and thought. Usually small — no bigger than 3 by 5 inches — these bookplates range from the simple to ornate, from the initials of the book's owners to elaborate family crests.

"My interest is the emergence of the plates for political purposes, which grew out of the Cold War and the suppression of artistic ideas in Eastern Europe," said Garry Kaulitz, a printmaker and teacher at the University of Alaska Anchorage who organized the show. "Being small, they could be passed around somewhat undetected. The plates were commissioned and still being used today

to disseminate political, sexual, social, cultural, gender, etc. concepts."

The "Ex Libris" exhibit at the International Gallery of Contemporary Art includes about 80 prints from all over the United States, plus a few from Europe. The exhibit opens tonight alongside a show by a Los Angeles multimedia artist, Shoshana Brand.

Brand's video installation, "Show Me the Water," will take up three galleries at the International, including the recently opened guest room in the back.

"Her work celebrates different voices and cultures and are fairly narrative," said Julie Decker, co-director of the gallery.

Brand's artist statement describes her show as a response "to current environmental con-

cerns, by creating an ambiguous space where photographic images are displayed on the gallery floor and people read love poems to the ocean in different languages."

She wants the installation to call attention to global warming and the loss of nature by showing how the method of documentation takes the place of the experience of nature itself. (Reporter's note: Visitors to Denali National Park can now tour the wilderness on buses equipped with video screens, thus

allowing the driver to hone a lens on distant animals and project them for passengers.)

"Ex Libris" and "Show Me the Water" continue through the month. Read a review of "Show Me the Water" in Thursday's Daily News.

— Dawnell Smith



Ex Libris

