

ARTS

'Radical Kingdoms' offers glimpse of natural beauty

Exhibit runs through June 18

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George Booruly's "Florida IV (wrack line)" is part of "Radical Kingdoms."

In the 18th and 19th centuries, people who were curious about all the plants and animals on our planet would look at illustrations in books.

Those illustrations, created long ago by both men and women, still inspire nature lovers and visual artists today.

That's the idea behind "Radical Kingdoms," an exhibit dense with images of birds and butterflies, flowers and mammals, which opened last week in the Mandeville Gallery at Schenectady's Union College.

In the exhibit, 20 works by five contemporary artists in acrylic, ink, watercolor and collage, are hung next to 13 works by those early artists. You'll see John James Audubon's "The Viviparous Quadrapeds of North America" and drawings by lesser-known artists of the time, such as J. Sowerby, Mary Peart and Georg Dionysius Ehret.

The contemporary artists include George Boorujy, Portia Munson, Juan Fontanive, Amy Ross and Anne Siems.

The exhibit runs through June 18 in the Mandeville, which is located on the second floor of the Nott Memorial. A reception is scheduled today from 5 to 6:30 p.m.