

BLACK & WHITE

Exhibit highlights pen, ink drawings of Eugene J. Martin

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It was economics that led Eugene J. Martin to explore the genre of black and white pen and ink drawings.

"He could do pencil drawings if he had not much money," said Suzanne Fredericq, Martin's widow. "If he had more money, he did large canvases. If he had nothing, he would draw on napkins."

A collection of about 60 of Martin's black and white drawings will be on exhibit beginning Feb. 10, during Art Walk, at the Acadiana Center for the Arts.

"It gives us an opportunity to highlight the artists in our community that may go unnoticed or under the radar," said ACA curator Rose Courville. "There are so many artists in this community that are celebrated outside the community."

Martin is one such artist.

A native of Washington, D.C., Martin moved to Lafayette in 1996 and died in 2005 of complications from a stroke he had suffered four years earlier.

The works on display at the ACA were done between 1985 and 1988.

"He was living with a friend," said Fredericq, a biology professor at UL. "He didn't have a place of his own. He would go to the national airport, he would go in the park or in the library. He was kind of restricted on what he could draw. In that time, he did a lot of black and white. It was very easy, with a piece of paper and a pen."

The black and white drawings were popular, Fredericq said. "They show positive and negative space. Some are very complex. Some are simple. Some are very playful. Some have a little bit of graphite pencil to give them a more three-dimensional look."

Martin didn't limit himself to one medium for his art.

"He never repeated himself,"



Submitted photos

The works of Eugene J. Martin will be shown at the Acadiana Center for the Arts.

WANT TO GO?

- **What:** Eugene Martin: In Black and White
- **When:** Saturday through Jan. 30
- **Where:** Acadiana Center for the Arts, 101 Vermillion Street
- **Tickets:** Adults, \$5; students and seniors, \$3; free during Saturday's ArtWalk
- **Information:** 233-7060

The medium was less important to Martin than the art itself.

"He was the happiest person, because he did exactly what he

