FOTOFOCUS SHOWS I’VE SEEN - #3

Here are two more FotoFocus shows that I found memorable:

"The Evolution of Photo Bookmaking" at the Mercantile Library downtown. This show, curated by author and artist Nancy Howell-Kofler, was a look at the art of the photographic artist’s book from the 1970s-2012. It included books that were both commercially and hand-bound, and which ranged from serious to humorous in context. Books by Bea Nettles, Las Krauses, Diana Duncan Holmes and Timothy Flordon, Col Kowal, Nancy Ricanth and Duane Michals were on view, along with those of many others.

![Books by Diana Duncan Holmes and Timothy Flordon](image1.jpg)

Part of what made this show so great was that it was housed in the Mercantile Library. The books were, for the most part, laid out on tables in the center of the library, which made them both accessible and secure.

![A view of the Mercantile Library. You can see the viewing tables at the bottom from.](image2.jpg)

The walls of the space were of course lined with library books, which made me feel like the exhibition was right at home. Viewers could page through almost all of the books themselves, which does not always happen at artists' books exhibitions. A real treat!

Another exhibition that was the perfect marriage of location and art was "Light Castings" at Voltage Gallery. Located on the second floor of a contemporary furniture store, this gallery featured photographic installations by Jordan Tite and Anthony Pearson. Although their work is very different, both artists pose questions about the role that reproducible processes play in today's world. Because of this, their work coexisted comfortably throughout the space.

!["New Work #441", by Jordan Tite](image3.jpg)

Although a wall separates the gallery space from the store, having to pass through part of the store in order to get to the exhibition set the viewer up for a certain kind of visual experience that did not disappoint.