

Picture This

THE LIBRARIAN WHO TURNED A LIBRARY INTO AN ART GALLERY.

• Librarians are well known for their tendency to collect things: rare manuscripts, obscure scientific journals, online databases. But they're less likely to be confused with art collectors, except when it comes to Lynn Mullins. With the passion of a Chelsea gallery owner, Mullins, director of Rutgers-Newark's Dana Library, shows off some of the library's works that blend art with the written word: a 50-pound book carved in black granite, a large dictionary cast in red resin, resting on top of a stool, and a book made from handmade paper and sheets of steel depicting storefronts in Newark. "Art helps make libraries more exciting and inviting by adding an aesthetic, even spiritual dimension," explains Mullins, who regularly books exhibits ranging from handmade paper to contemporary Portuguese prints to Chinese watercolors. After a library renovation project in 1994 added considerable space, Mullins used gifts and a state arts grant to acquire about 70 works by 30 artists, most from the metropolitan area. Photographer Bob Mahon, one of the artists whose work is in the collection, told Mullins that

he loves having it displayed there. "He sees libraries as places that open people to art's subtle influences and help connect them to their deeper selves," she says. For a virtual tour, visit:

www.libraries.rutgers.edu/ruljlibs/dana_lib/dana_lib_arctour.shtml.



MULLINS, WITH A PIECE CALLED *BOOK AND CHAIR* BY ARTIST STELLA WAITZKIN, IS WORKING ON A CATALOG OF WAITZKIN'S WORK.