A

H

Worth the effort

At Girls' Club in Fort Lauderdale, artists have time on their side. BY COLLEEN DOUGHER

arol Pruša produces labor-intensivo contemporary art, so people frequently ask they how long it mok to complete a WORK This summer the Ploride Atlantic University are professor kept track of the nours spent on the 4-by-7-foot 'Anarde,' and was surprised by the results. That piece went close to 500 hours,' she says, 'and I thought Ther's meane!

The process of creating the work saverpoint with ground graphite, trianium white pigment and acrylic binder - is involved and meditative "[Anande] was an innessly time-consuming work, which doesn't make it of value inherently, but expresses a certain kind of commitment to a process," Prusa says.
it's this kind of commitment Michelle

Weinberg, creative director for Fort Landerdale alternative art space Giris Club, sought for the venue's latest show, Set to. Manual, which will open Friday. "I was interested in work where at every step of the process, the artist's hand was there, but not necessarily the physical hand. Wemberg explains. "There are artists working with digital media, and we have a Wen project, is then the hand becomes a decisionmaking gesture by the artist _ an intimacy and

nvolvement with the work." Of the nearly 30 works in the show, 21 are from the collection of Feature Blabon Good and her husband, David Horvitz, who founded Girls' Club in 2006. "They decided once their collection started overflowing, to make a commitment to the community, to have their private art collection be an inspiration o cutainst for mining the bar in terms of cultural ventues." Welnberg says

As its mission become more defined, Girla' Club became more deeply extremched in the community forming educational partnerships with Science II. Anthony Recovery Center and Women to Discress and helpino Young at Air Misseum to design Girls in Power, no art-based program for teens at Pace Center for Ords Girls' Club also solidified its amitment to the local art community by offering art-related workshops and inviting select arrists litto curated, themed one-year exhibitions that include works on loan from other collectors, gallernes and actism

The Good/Harvitz collection dictates the themes of Girls' Club's shows. The first Talking Heads, opened in 2007 after Weinberg discovered the collection contained nucls portrait plintography focusing on women at various stages of life, in all their awkward moments. Traditional male

photography, she points out, tends to focus on women to their most sexually attractive or available years. Girls' Chib's 2008 show. Under the Influence, explored temale artists who in the '60s and '70s were recycling materials, collaborating, opening venues and laying the groundwork for the way artists

work today. Set to Manual explores handmade contemporary art. Like previous exhibits, it draws heavily from the collection, which includes art by Tara Donovas, who creates pictures and 3-D installation spaces from everyday materials, and Amparo Sant, who makes drawings by punching pinholes in paper About a third of the work is by local artists such as paper sculptur Jen Stark. filmmaker Clifton Childree, collegest Pepe Mar and Kerry Phillips, who obsessively collects everyday objects and spors them into art. Mar spent four months on his contribution to the show, a colorful multimedia sculpture titled "I'm Afraid of Everything" and made of wires, sea oponger giftery doodaids and dollar-store finds. He says it is inspired by club music, fashion and shopping. Creating the piece reminded him of painting, with the frequent addition of new layers, and he says he poured lumself into the work until it developed a life of its own. "You can totally feel it," he explains. "[The objects] have been around me for a while and they start coming alive"

Prusa arques that when an artist spends 500 hours or more on a piece, time unfolds differently and a deeply meditative process emerges. The title of her work 'Anande' means "bliss" in Hmth and was apparently as peaceful to make as it is to view.

'My piece was made to be a mattress of sorts, like a biological surface that you could find solace or refreshment in," Prusa says. "it's like a visual mattress that if you laid down on it, would make you happy it's a little gift of painting so that everyone who is superstressed could just breathe a little differently, colm down a little bit. I think a los of the work in the show functions that way

Set to Manual will open 7-10 p.m. Friday at Girls' Club, 117 N.E. Second St., in Port Lauderdale. Admission is free. Call 954-826-9151 or visit Girlsclubcollection.org. Contact Colleen Dougher at cdougher@citylinkmagazine.com