

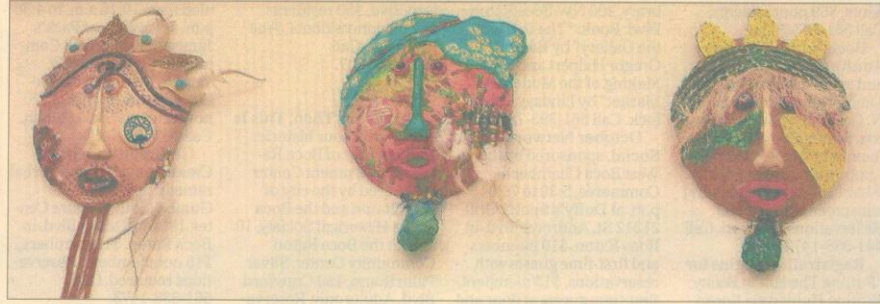
Mask-making uncovered at library display

By JASON PARSLEY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

It was 10 years ago while Donna Burton was sitting in a workshop designed to train women how to access their "Goddess" from within that the idea of sculpting a mask first came to her.

She said it took seven years before her idea came to fruition. The results will be displayed through January at the Southwest County Regional Library, 20701 95th Ave. South in West Boca.

The display of colorful masks is part of Palm Beach County's art loan program, said Elayna Singer, administrator for the Art in Public Places project. In order to put someone's artwork on display, the county's Public Art Committee first must



COVER-UP: Donna Burton's masks can be seen at the Southwest County Regional Library. Photo/Jason Parsley

approve it.

"I feel that each mask has evolved from another lifetime and tapped into a distinct piece of my soul," Bur-

ton said, while discussing the display.

"I love them, they're fun, everyone is different," said Elizabeth Warnick, a psy-

chotherapist who lives in Tequesta. She said she has since purchased Burton's artwork and hung several of Burton's paintings in her

office. "There's great use of color in her artwork ... a lot of vibration."

■ **LIBRARY** continues on 10

■ LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Burton, 45, who lives in Highland Beach, said she has been creating art for 30 years and in addition to constructing masks, she paints. She also has taught weaving classes, worked with photography, and made jewelry.

Each mask takes Burton about 30 hours to create from start to finish. Each starts as a plastic mold. As she works "I'm envisioning different textures, fabrics and feathers and other dimensional mediums that relate to the subject of the mask," Burton said.

Her inspiration for the masks comes from her dreams or sometimes the most mundane things. "I usually get a thought ... someone might say a word or mention a book, a city or something," she said. "I'm

kind of guided by some unknown energy."

Burton said she has had her studio, Donna Burton Designs, 1755 NW Arcadia Way, in Boca Raton for 22 years.

"I have these masks inside of me, swimming around in my mind," Burton said. "These ideas were coming to me spontaneously. Someone would just say a name and I would see a mask."

Along with her artwork, she also has been an "energy facilitator" for the past 14 years. "I'm a conduit ... energy comes through me. I can sense what's going on physically, emotionally and mentally," Burton said. "I have the ability to clear out blocked energy. It frees up the client to move forward in their life. And they get a sense of lightness and inner peace and joy."