Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Richard Hamwi had his first one-person exhibit in New York City in 1976 at the Parsons-Dreyfuss Gallery. Since then he has had more than 30 solo exhibits including galleries and museums in NYC, Washington, D.C., and State College, Pa. His work has been shown extensively in juried group exhibits and is included in several permanent collections including the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution; The Phillips Collection; and The Italian Permanent Mission to the United Nations. In addition to residencies at several artists’ colonies, Hamwi has taught at the Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a doctoral degree, Cumberland College, Mansfield University and Mercyhurst College. He has served as associate professor of art at Albright College, Reading, Pa., since 2004, and as chair of the department since 2007.

**MEET THE ARTIST**

Richard Hamwi is a contemporary artist who uses watercolor and collage to express his interest in nature and abstraction. His work gives rise to the discussion of how combinations of color and shape can convey moods, feelings and ideas through boldness and rhythm.

**QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS ABSTRACT ART?**

Abstract art expresses an idea through color, line and form rather than with recognizable images. It can be based on realism or be completely make-believe. Artists have something to say! Where do artists get their ideas and how do they communicate them? Exploring Richard Hamwi’s art, see what ideas he pulls in from the world around him.

Artists make art in order to communicate ideas and express themselves. Drawing from the world around him and finding inspiration in landscape, architecture, music and poetry, Hamwi then translates these inspirations into works of art.

**IN VIEWING THE WORKS, THINK ABOUT THESE IDEAS AND ASK YOURSELF:**

What colors do I see? How many different greens are there? Can you imagine anything about this place? These water color and ink collages are composed of colors and shapes and brush strokes in a balanced harmony leaving clues for you to make discoveries. Have you heard of foreground, middle ground and background?

Using precut shapes: Let’s find these shapes in the painting and see if we can match which part of the painting they go with. Are any shapes repeated? How would you describe his brushstrokes? Sometimes Hamwi likes to use patterns to move our eyes through his painted world.

Even though many of his shapes are abstract they might remind us of things. What words would you use to describe these shapes? How would you describe the edges? The corners? How does the painting change if we move farther away or closer?

It is interesting to think about how abstract shapes can be derived from nature and shapes from nature can turn into abstract shapes.

**VOCABULARY WORDS:**

Spread, Overlap, Bleed, Natural Colors, Shapes, Convex, Flat, Concave, Symmetrical, Flat, Background, Composition, Concorve, Dissolving Edges, Blurred, Focal Point, Related Colors

For more information, contact Beth Krumholz, 610-921-7776 or bkrumholz@alb.edu, and visit www.albright.edu/Freedman

**RICHARD HAMWI: JOURNEY**

DECEMBER 1, 2011 – JANUARY 8, 2012 • FREEDMAN GALLERY

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Walking

Taking a very short walk, either inside or outside, can yield great surprises. Within a few minutes try an exercise and write down a list of all that you see, hear and smell. Back at home or in your classroom, take your list, share it with friends, and see what can be turned into a poem, story, idea or picture. This is a collecting exercise and can be done anywhere and anytime. Be as descriptive as possible!

OUTLINE A DRAWING

Looking around the room you are in, simply draw outlines of shapes of everything around you. After we finish drawing, we will cut out and color the shapes to compose a collage. The shapes can be colored with solid or patterned marks. The project can be taken a step further, by making a painting from the collage, using it as a model.

FLIPPING FOR FLIP BOOKS

Using 3x5 cards or Post-it pads, draw and color a build-up of shapes and objects to create your own flip book! In this project the key concept is to think about working in layers, building each page little by little resulting in a full page of color. The motion of flipping through the pages will give the effect of the finished piece.