

News Release

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Media Contact:

Lisa Lockheart, Publicity Liaison
Rock Island Public Library
401 19th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201
309.732.7303
Lockheart.lisa@rigov.org



Artist's Reception is July 23 at Rock Island Library

Quad City artist Mardi Howell, of Davenport, will host a public reception for her new art show, "Where I've Been," on Thursday, July 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rock Island Main Library, 401 19th Street. The art exhibit, which is a short retrospective of Ms. Howell's works over the past eight years, is open from July 6 through August 30 at the Main Library during library hours.

"Where I've Been" features a wide range of Howell's artistic styles, from studies of the masters to more contemporary abstract works. "It's a rare occasion that I don't have a paint brush in my hand on a daily basis. But in these rare moments, you can be assured that I'm thinking about painting and wishing I was painting," says Howell. Both the reception and the art exhibit are free and open to the public.

Howell is both an artist and a faux finish wall painter, or as she says, a "wall artist." Her approach for custom paint finishes comes from her artist's eye. Like her art, many are free-flowing and artistic, rather than precise, like wallpaper. Often, the two worlds crossover when Howell uses oil painting techniques on walls and wall techniques on canvas. Her style of oil painting varies, often experimenting with abstract designs. Her use of vibrant color is the one constant. Howell notes she's been fascinated with the wonder of color since a first-grade teacher first showed her how to mix new colors.

"Here I am, thirty years later, and I'm just as intrigued by color today, and I still get thrilled when I see a painting of mine framed for the first time," she says. Howell exhibits at many local art shows and spaces, including Riverssance and Bucktown Center for the Arts. She is a member of Midcoast Fine Arts and the Art Collective.

Library art exhibits are free and open for viewing on the 2nd floor art gallery during regular library hours. Libraries offer plenty of print, online, visual and audio resources, many of which are free with a library card. For money-saving entertainment, enlightenment and enrichment for all ages, visit the Rock Island Main, 30/31 and Southwest Branch libraries, or check the Rock Island Library online at www.ripl.lib.il.us for details about library cards, services and free events for the family.



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