

# Mardi Howell Art Show

## The Rock Island Public Library

July 6, 2009



### **“Where I’ve Been” new art show at the Main Library for July and August**

The Rock Island Public Library will host art works by Mardi Howell starting July 6 and running through August 30 at the Main Library downtown, 401 19<sup>th</sup> Street. “Where I’ve Been” features the colorful works of Mardi Howell, of Davenport. Library art exhibits are free and open for viewing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor art gallery during regular library hours. An example, “Interpretation,” is to the left.

“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.

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.

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](http://www.ripl.lib.il.us) for details about library cards, services and free events for the family.



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