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**Steven Cushner: New Paintings  
William Willis: Works on Paper  
April 8 - May 28, 2010**

Washington DC – Hemphill Fine Arts opens *Steven Cushner: New Paintings*, and *William Willis: Works on Paper* on April 8, 2010 with a public reception from 6:30-8:30 pm. The exhibitions will remain on view through May 28, 2010.



“The painting is not an open window for the viewer’s eye, it is an object for the viewer’s mind”  
-Steven Cushner

Cushner’s new paintings on view at Hemphill offer a revelatory and engaging experience for the viewer. The large format canvases convey Cushner’s unique visual language, rich in a vocabulary of pattern, color, symmetry, and repetition. Through this vernacular, he is able to perfect a balance between fleeting gestures and concrete forms. In his new body of work, Cushner experiments with new applications of color and metamorphoses geometric forms into more robust, undulating and fluid patterns. The result is an energetic exhibition that invites the audience to join Cushner on an emotional and physical journey.

Steven Cushner received a Masters of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Maryland in 1980. His work is included in numerous private and public collections, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

It is during the process of drawing that William Willis feels most liberated and impassioned. To Willis, drawing is the most direct expression of the imagination and, therefore, is the initial step in his artistic practice. The works on paper on view at Hemphill are imbued with the same freshness and spontaneity found in all of his drawings. They are a continuation of the works on paper presented in his exhibition at Hemphill in 2004 and reflect the inspiration he has found in artists such as Giorgio Morandi and Pablo Picasso. The notion of art as a continuous journey with no final destination is evident in these pieces as Willis experiments with and repeatedly refines forms and patterns.



In addition to incorporating Willis’ signature iconographic images found in nature and Eastern cultures, the exhibition introduces the use of photo collage. The photographs provide a glimpse into the sources of his inspiration. He seamlessly weaves them into the drawings, revealing how integral the objects in the photographs are to the forms in his artwork. Willis’ unique treatment of collage challenges the viewer to distinguish between his free hand and his applications.

Born in 1943, William Willis studied painting at the University of South Florida. After completing his Masters of Fine Arts in 1973, Willis moved to Washington, DC, accepting a teaching position at the University of Maryland, College Park. His work has been widely collected by museums and private collectors, including The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, and The Washington Post Corporation.

*Hemphill will be open from from 6:00-9:00 pm on the evening of April 22, 2010, during CraftWeekDC, organized by The James Renwick Alliance and coinciding with the Smithsonian Craft Show.*

TOP IMAGE: STEVEN CUSHNER, UNTITLED, 2010, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 86" X 75"

BOTTOM IMAGE: WILLIAM WILLIS, STILL LIFE WITH SNAKE PLANT AND DRAPERY, 2007-09, MIXED MEDIA AND COLLAGE ON PAPER, 12 1/2" X 8 1/2"