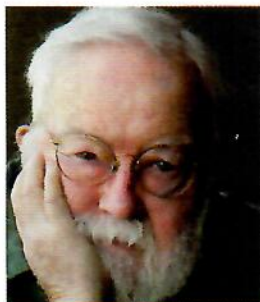


DAVID OMAR WHITE (1927–2009)

David Omar White was born in Appleton, Wisconsin. While he spent most of his adult life in the urban Boston area, he never forgot the ever-changing beauty of the open skies, plains, deserts, and oceans of his youth. "From second to second," he said, "the light and the wind alters [the landscapes] in a never repeating combination. All one has to do is look."⁹⁸

Sympathetic to the underdog and amused by those in power, White became known for satirical imagery and a gentle wit. His imagery developed over time and gradually became more abstract. At age seventy-eight, White moved to an apartment with a surprising view of the northern horizon. This inspired a large number of mini-murals depicting wide, abstract magical landscapes that are luminous, airy and baroque. To add complexity to his work, White began breaking up the picture plane by building it from plywood of different shapes and depths. "I want my paintings to continually surprise



the viewer with something not seen before no matter how often it is looked at," he said, "I'm an abstract, surrealist landscape painter with flim-flam sauce on the side."⁹⁹

White's prolific output includes sculptures, prints, illustrations, "The White Rabbit" political strip, two children's books, and murals such as those at the Casablanca Restaurant in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, awarded him two faculty enrichment grants, which he used to visit the indigenous carvers of the Pacific Northwest and to see the major works of Mexico's best known muralists.

White exhibited in *Drawn to Detail* at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in 2008. Between 1998 and 2007, he had five exhibits at the Genovese/Sullivan Gallery. His work is in private and public collections across the country, including the Boston Public Library and the Addison Gallery of American Art.



One of God's Favorite Weed Patches, 2006, acrylic and graphite on paper, 20" x 24" matted. Courtesy of the estate of David Omar White. Photography by Robert Hakalski



Alchemist's Garden (Predna Zone), 2006, acrylic and graphite on paper, 21" x 23.5" matted. Courtesy of the estate of David Omar White. Photography by Robert Hakalski



*Mini Mural #11 (Umbria), 2008, liquid acrylic and graphite on paper, 20" x 60".
Courtesy of the estate of David Omar White. Photography by Robert Hakalski.*



*I Dreamt about Fatehpur Sikri, 2006, acrylic and graphite on paper, 19.375" x 24" matted.
Courtesy of the estate of David Omar White. Photography by Robert Hakalski*