



MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

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MIT Museum Opens New Exhibit October 28: *Finding Form: The Art of Richard Filipowski*

Intertwining Science, Technology, and Art:

MIT Museum Showcases the Sculpture and Graphic Art of Richard Filipowski

Finding Form: The Art of Richard Filipowski

October 28, 2005 - February 17, 2006

Cambridge, October 2005 - The MIT Museum spotlights the sculpture and graphic art of Richard Filipowski (b. 1923), professor of visual studies at MIT for over three decades. *Finding Form: The Art of Richard Filipowski* runs through February 17, 2005. Filipowski exercised an important and lasting influence on the curriculum of the School of Architecture and Planning from his arrival at MIT in 1952 through his retirement in 1988.

His work and teachings exemplify the impact of the Bauhaus, the pioneering German design school, on American architectural education. The works on view, selected from the MIT Museum's rich collection of Filipowski's oeuvre, and recent work from the artist's collection both demonstrate his influential design curriculum and reveal his pivotal manipulations of form and color.

After graduating from the Institute of Design in Chicago, Filipowski taught there from 1946-1950 before being called to Harvard University by Walter Gropius, then head of the Harvard Design School. In 1952 Dean Pietro Belluschi brought Filipowski to MIT. Filipowski was the first to introduce the Bauhaus teaching methods to MIT and his Form and Design curriculum was closely patterned after Bauhaus courses, particularly the first year required color theory classes.

Filipowski has described his work of "finding form" as a "sustained search for spatial-structural-emotional concepts." Today Filipowski maintains a daily commitment to "finding form," usually preferring to work in colored ink on paper. The exhibition includes a selection from the MIT Museum's Filipowski Collection, including examples of some of his earliest work in sculpture and on paper, and recent work from the artist's collection.

This exhibition has been made possible by generous support from the Council for the Arts at MIT; the Massachusetts Cultural Council; and the Institute for Museum and Library Services.