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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Deceptively “*Simple Beauty*”: Exhibit of Works in Cut Paper by Hiro Takeshita Opens Sat., Apr. 18 at the Museum

Hoboken, NJ – April 8, 2009 – At first glance, the dozen or so images that Hoboken artist Hiro Takeshita will display next month in the Hoboken Historical Museum’s Upper Gallery appear to be beautiful, graceful paintings of the local cityscape in saturated colors and delicate lines. The lights of New York City twinkle across the Hudson, a fine rain sweeps across the foreground, tree branches twist in the wind. But step up to the pictures and look closely at the junction of two colors, and you just might be able to detect the true medium: layers of cut paper in different colors.

The art form is known as *kirigami* in his native Japan, and though Takeshita studied art and print-making in Tokyo in the 1970s, he came to the cut-paper medium after he moved to the U.S., influenced strongly by his admiration for the French modern master Henri Matisse, who experimented with the technique late in his career. Takeshita spent most of his art career working in oil paints, pastels, watercolors, and print-making.

“Recently, I am committed to my papercut work,” he says. “I love the use of colored paper as a puzzle; the parts communicate with each other to create harmony. The sharpness of the lines and the shapes create a beauty that I want to share. The unexpected color that emerges under the cut lines is magical.”

Meet the artist and learn more about *kirigami* at the opening reception on **Saturday, April 18, from 3 – 5 p.m.**, for ***Simple Beauty: Views from Hoboken, Works in Cut Paper***, in the Upper Gallery. The event is free.

Takeshita was born in Nagasaki, Japan, and from an early age was interested in art and American culture. While living in Tokyo, he saw an exhibit of 1960s American Pop

artists and felt drawn to their work. In 1977, he moved to Los Angeles, Calif., where he met other like-minded Japanese artists and continued to work on his art. He participated his first group show in Cape Canaveral, Fla., the following year. He moved to New York soon after, where his oil paintings and pastel drawings quickly took on the frenetic pace and landscape of the city.

In 2006, Takeshita brought his work home to Japan with an exhibit entitled “Nagasaki: Beautiful City, Lovely People,” in which his papercut work also appeared in giant format on the streetcars that wind through the city. Samuel Sachs II, Director Emeritus of The Frick Collection, said of the exhibit: “Nagasaki native Hiro Takeshita...has created a handsome body of cut-paper work and drawn inspiration from many artists to create his own, unique blend of a keen Japanese sensibility with a visual acuity drawn from a life in the West. His artist’s eye sees an ever-hopeful view of a color-filled world where line and space create a multi-dimensional reality.”

A fixture on the Hoboken Artists Studio Tour, Takeshita’s works will be on view at the Museum through May 31. Visit www.hirotakeshita.com to learn more about the artist.

About the Hoboken Historical Museum

Founded 1986, the Museum’s mission is to educate the public about Hoboken’s history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 7 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5 pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at www.hobokenmuseum.org. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

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Note to editors: An image of Takeshita’s work is available; please call 201-683-6935.