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Drawing Conclusions

"Value and Presence" is a joyous ode to drawing, a symphony of lines, shapes and evocative subjects by 11 artists enamored of making marks on paper--bold ones, thin ones, restrained or harsh ones. Whether knife-cut or charcoal-smoky, the marks and lines in this exhibit are responsive and malleable tools for expressing what's on an artist's mind--especially in this exhibit, which includes everything from landscapes to imaginative works full of coded symbols and magic waterfalls.

From **Charles Ritchie's** inky, black nightscapes that read like surveillance photographs to **Tara Goings'** mythic creations and **Stanley Lewis'** obsessive backyard conjurings, the outpourings of these artists are energizing. For fans of more abstract musings, **Charles Burwell's** new multipatterned works, made for the show, are beautiful slices from a complex world of interlocking rhythms and bold shapes.

The lessons here are many. One is that, in the right hands, art in black-and-white can be as satisfying as anything in color.

"Value and Presence," through Feb. 23. List Gallery, Lang Performing Arts Center, Swarthmore College, 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 610.328.8488.

