

## **FLOW – Painting Performance #12 & Painting Performance Exhibition | Horus & Deloris**

**Opening Wed 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007 6pm-8pm | Exhibition till 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Performance is synonymous with Milanda de Mont's paintings. Unlike many artists who paint only in the privacy of their studios, De Mont makes her creative process public. She paints before an audience, turning it into a performance much like the action painting of American abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock. However, De Mont's performances do not progress in silence nor are they solitary. The artist who has worked with and is influenced by German artist Barbara Heinisch, a former pupil of Josef Beuys is known for her fusion of the three art forms of visual arts, dance and music.

De Mont's latest project FLOW curated by Rachael Kiang attests to her interdisciplinary approach. It is realized in collaboration with dancer Vanessa Sew Hoy and violinist Quyen Le which will culminate in a painting performance at Horus & Deloris on the opening night of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September and an exhibition of her performance paintings till 26<sup>th</sup> September. As well, a film documenting the collaborative art making process for this very project will be on show.

Inter-cultural collaboration is central to De Mont's work. Inspired by her Armenian and Persian origin, De Mont is keen to explore the confluences and unions of the East and the West which has led to many a collaboration with various cultures. FLOW continues on this course, this time, with an Asian-Australian dancer and violinist.

De Mont's performance will capture a key part of her creative process while her paintings are the reflection and outcome of her artistic synergies. The lively brushstrokes of her paintings are characteristically abound with energy and movement. FLOW depicts a holistic, inclusive picture of De Mont's art practice where the performance animates her paintings and the paintings complete her performance. FLOW will see the introduction of a new element in that an installation piece will be created for and incorporated into the performance. The question of painting and its relationship with three-dimensionality would be brought to the fore and the body will assume a position of prime focus.

### **About the Artist**

Milanda de Mont is a successful, full-time, established contemporary artist and performance painter based in Australia and Germany. She was raised in Australia of ethnic Armenian and Persian background, educated in Australia, U.S.A. and Germany and speaks four languages fluently.

She is most recently one of six finalists of the national, multi-disciplinary Audi TT Art Prize earlier this year. In 2006, the National Gallery of Armenia held a major retrospective exhibition of her works as well as her painting performance. She also enjoyed a very well-received solo exhibition at Galerie Bredene in Essen, Germany.

The busy artist and two time recipient of the Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes Scholarship will be working in the direction of performance paintings, painting performances and abstract paintings for the rest of the year. De Mont will be holding a solo exhibition of abstract paintings in October at Harris Courtin Gallery in Sydney following her multidisciplinary performance and performance painting exhibition FLOW at Horus & Deloris.

De Mont is represented by Harris Courtin Gallery in Sydney, Galerie Bredene in Essen, Germany, Untitled Gallery in Yerevan and National Gallery of Armenia. She has exhibited widely both nationally and internationally, collaborated with German and other European artists and has held over 50 exhibitions. Her paintings are in the collections in major Capital cities of Australia, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Düsseldorf, Stuttgart, Essen, Yerevan (Armenia), Holland, Tokyo, New Zealand, and Barbados.