

# MAISONNEUVE

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**Servane MARY**

## *Black Dawn*

April 12 – May 10, 2008

Opening Saturday 12th April. 6 – 9 pm.

Galerie Maisonneuve is pleased to announce *Black Dawn*, the first solo exhibition of Servane Mary in France.

“In the paintings of Servane Mary there is a quality of unquiet, an active mental stock taking of the emotive power of images. The purely aesthetic issue of color is heightened by the internal conflict of subject matter, the human figure. Celebrated icons of sport, film, music, are contrasted equally by the anonymous persons of every social stratum.

The bloodline of figuration gets sampled; Tintoretto, Caravaggio, Gerhard Richter, Elizabeth Peyton, Marlene Dumas et al., From picture to picture the melancholy of fame fades into the euphoria of sport, or the anguish of human suffering. Her chromatic juxtapositions are both accretions of memory of the tabloid/journalistic photograph and their distortion of them. Truth and fiction are interchangeable parts of global media, as previously in historical painting.

Through the cult of portraiture artists have always portrayed their contemporaries. Such is the 21<sup>st</sup> century context in Servane Mary who sustains the tradition of figuration as a rupture away from the virtual timeline where iconic images reproduced by the thousands often lose their meaning. Her supple and skillful vocabulary is not about a formal perfection of the body, line, or face but the plastic life of expanding and receding color itself as conveyed through the emotional.”

Max Henry.

The artist will present a group of paintings (tempera on wood): *Marshes*, small portraits of veiled women, and other large scale paintings. In these paintings, the matter according to the faces indicates a social realism and an approach quasi photographic. Several new sculptures will be exhibited also.

### *Marshes\**

“Seen here are portraits of Oriental women; the subject matters are painted from images I found in newspapers and on the internet. They are the representation of any woman. Their smiles are fighting against death and violence; they are a victory over all types of powers (religion, politics, money). Their smiles become a symbol of a rebellion, a battle.

The women are painted on dead pinewood, an almost funeral wood, like the sarcophages of goddesses. In the Average-Age the representation of upper-body women on wood panels were created for the prayer. The isolated figures would become icons with no spatial, temporal or narrative context. Now, the faces of these poetic sports women pay homage to courage, glory and envy.”

Servane Mary

\*The marshes designate the place where some of these women come from. It's an area with marchlands in the south of Irak that use to be very fertile before Saddam Hussein stopped the irrigation system.

Servane Mary is born in 1972. She lives and works in Paris and New York. Her works have been recently exhibited in Los Angeles (DF2 Gallery), New York (Alona Kagan Gallery), Miami (Art Basel Miami Beach) and Paris (FIAC) and would also be highlighted at a solo exhibition in New York at Martos Gallery in May 2008.