

# DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

## PRESS RELEASE

Monique Mouton, Sally Späth and Mina Totino

*Working Title*

Curated by Elizabeth McIntosh

12 July to 2 August 2008

Opening Saturday 12 July from 3 to 6

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present the works of Monique Mouton, Sally Späth and Mina Totino in an exhibition curated by Elizabeth McIntosh.

*Working Title* explores the ways in which these artists deal with the matter of painting. The elements with which the paintings are composed – including the size and direction of the brush marks, the visible layers of colour, the viscosity of the paint, the negotiation of the edges and the idiosyncrasies of format – are the subject of the work. This focus on the parameters of painting itself is a modernist paradigm; however, the alliance to modernism falls short upon examining the end result of their works. Rather than being abstract these paintings are factual. Each of the artists work in ways that use those modernist constructs and yet each distort these constructs by the way the paint is considered, worked with and thought about. The transparency of the surface is quite literal in each of their methods, however, the labour of their thought and the results in paint demand a durational response.

McIntosh has known Sally Späth and followed her work since 1992 when they formed the Toronto collective "Painting Disorders". Mina Totino and McIntosh have had regular conversations about painting and have exchanged studio visits since McIntosh moved to Vancouver in 2004. Monique Mouton was a student at Emily Carr where McIntosh is currently teaching.

### Monique Mouton

Currently based in Austin, Texas, Monique Mouton received her BFA from the Emily Carr Institute in Vancouver in 2006. She held a solo show entitled *Measure* at Bodger's and Kludgers Co-operative Art Parlour in 2007. Recent group shows include: *Let There Be Light* at Blanket Gallery (2007), and *Diminutive Disposition* at Helen Pitt Gallery (2006), both in Vancouver. Mouton is a recent recipient of the Mary Plum Blade Award for Painting.

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## Sally Späth

Toronto-based artist Sally Späth has studied Painting, Drawing and Experimental Arts in Ottawa, Toronto and New York. Späth's paintings are a temporary and intuitive response to the site: the site being the space where they are exhibited. She uses standard sized vellum to create a composition in the space. Späth's work has been featured in solo shows in a number of Toronto galleries including Goodwater, Wynick/Tuck Gallery and the Art Gallery of York University. Her work has been featured in group exhibitions as well, including: *the way up and the way down are one and the same*, *Fast*, and *Surface Matters*.

## Mina Totino

Mina Totino has had a number of recent solo exhibitions at venues including Tracey Lawrence Gallery in Vancouver, Oboro Gallery in Montreal and the Belkin Satellite in Vancouver. She has participated in several group exhibitions, both in Canada and abroad. They include: *The Weather/Le Temps Qu'il Fait* at the Centre Des Arts Saidye Bronfman in Montreal, *Utopia* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Riga Latvia and *Thriller* at the Edmonton Art Gallery.