

DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

MEDIA RELEASE

Carlo Cesta

International House of Sunshine

May 17 – June 23, 2007

Opening Thursday, May 17, 6-9 pm

Artist in attendance

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present Toronto-based artist **Carlo Cesta's** first solo exhibition with the gallery. *International House of Sunshine* features four large-scale sculptures accompanied by a series of related drawings.

Cesta's recent sculpture combines fabricated garage doors with custom-made metal work. He merges high and low aesthetics, incorporating symbolic and applied ornament to minimalist forms, resulting in a kind of contaminated modernism. These works occupy a middle realm between adornment and utility, examining how vernacular modes of expression can act as counterpoints to official language and architecture. Through the manipulation of materials and the transformation of objects, Cesta's sculptures explore the function of signs and symbols in a constantly changing urban environment.

Carlo Cesta graduated from the Ontario College of Art & Design in 1980. Since then, he has shown extensively throughout Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Cesta's work has been included in prominent public and corporate collections such as Museum London; Winnipeg Art Gallery; National Gallery of Canada Library and Archive; The Museum of Civilization; Macdonald Stuart Art Centre and Praxis Group.

The artist gratefully acknowledges the support of The Canada Council, The Ontario Arts Council and The Toronto Arts Council and would also like to thank Tredegar Kennedy Metal and Rusty Girl for their assistance.



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Fernanda Brunet

May 17 – June 23, 2007

Opening Thursday, May 17, 6-9 pm

Artist in attendance

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present recent paintings by Mexican artist **Fernanda Brunet**. Fernanda's latest series of paintings depict outbursts of vibrant colors and swirling masses of organic matter. In Brunet's works, figuration morphs into pure abstraction and the amorphous into representation.

Brunet's paintings are inspired by Japanese comic books; the artist transforms the black and white graphics into the language of abstract painting and wildly disperses those representations on the canvas. The details of Brunet's work appear in diverse formats- from the miniscule flower bud to the grand boulder- each of which are viewed as fragments of an expansive, delirious universe in chaos.

With titles like *Swashsh* and *Zzzrraak*, Brunet's explosive yet controlled gestural paintings harbor an enthusiastic post-Pop sensibility recalling those comic book paintings by Roy Lichtenstein in a painterly Japanese anime style.

Brunet's use of an explosive, organic and empowering visual language harbors sexual undertones and analogies to the female body. In light of Brunet's earlier work that appropriated hardcore pornography and landscapes of erupting volcanoes, her recent works continue to stimulate an erotic tendency but in regressed form.

Born in Mexico City, Brunet has exhibited extensively in Mexico, Europe and in the United States. In 2003, she was awarded First Prize at the FEMSA Biennial (Monterrey, Mexico). Her works are included in the Museum of Modern Art (Mexico City), The Rufino Tamayo Museum (Mexico City), San Diego Museum of Modern Art, The Jumex Collection (Mexico City) and AstraZeneca (Toronto).

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