

The Poet's Den Gallery 309 E. 108th Street East Harlem, New York City

PRESS RELEASE

Critical Space

November 30 – December 13, 2008

Opening Reception Thursday December 4, 2008 7 – 9 pm

Artists' Reception Saturday, December 13, 2008 7 – 9 pm

Christine Purcell is pleased to present **Critical Space** at East Harlem's The Poet's Den Gallery, a group exhibition of the diverse work of five contemporary artists. Chosen from over forty artists identified by Christie's Education Masters Degree recipients as possessing the criteria for sustained success both artistically and commercially, these five artists represent a critical assessment of the future of contemporary art.

Featuring the work of **Diana Delgado**, **Christian Faur**, **Divya Mehra**, **Yamini Nayar**, and **Gail Shaw-Clemons**, varying conceptions of identity and place are conveyed in a variety of mediums in this group exhibition. Diana Delgado's mixed media large-scale paintings straddle the line between abstraction and representation revealing the spaces between opposing emotional states. In Christian Faur's *Forgotten Children* series, the artist examines identity, anonymity and memory through the favored medium of all children, crayons. Artist Divya Mehra uses video to explore contemporary conceptions of ethnicity in a media saturated society. Gail Shaw-Clemons' monotypes imply a sense of ancestral place and identity through abstract forms. Yamini Nayar, a sculptor and photographer, constructs unique worlds that suggest decaying, symbolically laden spaces in transition.

Painter **Diana Delgado** received her MFA in Painting from The University of the Arts in 2007 and her BFA in Painting from Syracuse University in 2005. Delgado has exhibited nationally and internationally, including shows in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and Sitges (Barcelona), Spain. The artist currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Christian Faur received his MFA from the University of Danube (Kerns), Transart Institute, Austria in 2008 and is currently Director of Collaborative Technologies in the Arts, Denison University, Granville, OH. The artist has exhibited in Columbus, Ohio, Newark, NJ, Chicago and Linz, Austria. The artist lives and works in Ohio.

Video artist **Divya Mehra** received her MFA in Visual Arts from Columbia University in 2008. She has lectured and taught sculpture, drawing and new media classes at Columbia University School of the Arts. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Yamini Nayar holds a B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design, M.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts, and is a recipient of the Aaron Siskand Fellowship. Her work has recently been exhibited at Scope Basel, Queens Museum of Art, Thomas Erben Gallery, and most recently at the Asian Contemporary Art Fair. Nayar's work will be included in the upcoming exhibition, 'Empire Strikes Back: Indian Art Today', at Saatchi Gallery, London in early 2009.

Gail Shaw-Clemons received her MFA in 1979 from the University of Maryland. She has exhibited in New York City, Washington, DC, and Sweden and is represented in the permanent collections of The Library of Congress Bob Blackburn Printmaking Collection, the Atlanta Life Insurance Company and the Milwaukee Art Commission. The artist lives and works in New York City.

Gallery Hours: 1pm – 7 pm daily. For additional information please contact Christine Purcell 917 881-8081/ christinepurcell@mac.com.