

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

*For immediate release*

**The Buddha Composed**

**JULIE OAKES** exhibits groundbreaking Buddhist-inspired works at Galerie Samuel Lallouz

Montreal, May 7, 2008 – Julia Oakes is exhibiting her new paintings based on traditional Tibetan iconography at Galerie Samuel Lallouz from May 22 to July 31. The artist will be present at the vernissage on May 22 at 5 pm.

The British Columbia-born, Toronto-based multi-dimensional artist draws upon her continuing study of Buddhism in these vivacious new works that depict Tibetan Buddhist entities such as Mahakala and Tara but with a very contemporary and welcome painterly twist.

They pay a debt to her spiritual practice while at the same time demonstrating the cutting-edge nature of her art. Indeed, these haunting and seminal images introduce us to the cosmology of Tibetan Buddhism and excite us by virtue of their lively and telling engagement with a host of contemporary political, social, environmental, philosophical and gender-related issues.

Oakes says of these works: "In 1972, I completed 100,000 prostrations while studying Thangka painting under Sherab Palden Berut. These new works constitute a symbolic completion of a further stage in my Tibetan Buddhist practice. I use henna to colour my hair. With the henna residue, I make gesture drawings of Buddha. On top of this Buddha image, I superimpose imagery from photographs of India taken in 2003 and then collage from a journal of postcards, Tibetan paintings and prints, drawings and writings that were assembled on my first visit to India in 1970."

Oakes has exhibited in Canada and across the globe over the course of nearly 40 years. She studied Thangka painting under master Lhasa court Thangka painter, Sherab Palden Berut, between 1971 and 1973. She received her BFA in 1969 (Gold Medal), from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. Additionally, she has a Masters Degree in Cultural Theory from the New School in New York and a second Masters Degree in Art and Art Professions from New York University.

**Opening: May 22, 2008, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

1434 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal  
The exhibition will continue until July 31, 2008.

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**Source:**

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