



'Harmony'  
160cm x 90cm

# For just a second

In her first solo exhibition, artist Demi McLeod explores the transient nature of emotions, and the need to cling tightly to them.

Softly spoken, Demi McLeod is in a tizzy when she walks into our offices. Still surprisingly warm for mid December, she has been rushing around all morning and arrives a little hot and bothered. She brings cake, asks for water and begins to talk. As she does so, a terrific transformation takes place;

were collaborative exhibitions and I found safety in numbers. This time it will be just me."

The exhibition, entitled 'ephemeral space,' will be held at the Gulf Hotel's Palace Lounge; a perfect choice given the show's title and content. Ephemeral, pertaining to the transient; and space,

**"It is a perfect example of the artist's artifice: merging disparate worlds, they remain isolated in union."**

serenity descends, and the stresses of the morning disappear. She smiles, and begins discussing her work.

"This is my first solo exhibition, and I'm excited and nervous all at the same time." She has done shows in the past but, "they

alluding to that from whence things came: the spaces between things, and that which surrounds anything identifiable. Fleeting moments then, captured for eternity; her subjects seem at once rooted in time and space and separate from them.

Of the space itself Demi says: "When you look at it from the lobby, it appears suspended in mid-air. During the day it is flooded with natural light, and at night the constellation chandelier floats above, twinkling as if from heaven; I am very lucky, and owe the hotel a huge debt of thanks."

She has been working on the exhibition for at least ten months but, "some of the paintings have been on the go for much longer than that." It is not difficult to see why; some of these paintings are vast, not just in breadth and area, but in the layering of media upon media and in the detail that lies within them. "This is the work I always knew I could do; they are personal to me, more so than much of what I have exhibited before."

In *Whispering*, the flamingos huddle ▶



'Eternity'  
60cm x 45cm





'Whispering' 160cm x 90cm

swapping stories, constructing fantasy - atop a muted floral relief. They are connected to it by virtue of it sharing the same space, but separate from it in that they share nothing contextually. It is a perfect example of the artist's artifice: merging disparate worlds, they remain isolated in union.

Similarly, the allusion in *Harmony* is to that of Renaissance Art: a Puti, or innocent

**"If *Harmony* is about peace, then we have all got far too used to chaos."**

soul (looking like winged children), leaps from a dark and complicated world, loot in hand, and searching, as if for some far off truth. But the image feels updated somehow, modernised, as if that innocent soul is not so innocent any more, or has been tainted by the darkened world of its fleeing. You can see it in the eyes and hair: a heathen reality called forth from

some terrible future. The painting plays with light and dark, and all their various con-and-denotations; it plays with texture and its opposite - the dark reeling world beneath and the porcelain skin of our Puti: If *Harmony* is about peace, then we have all got far too used to chaos.

*Eternity* speaks of longing; the girl's eyes cast downward, her smile stilted, forced. "My friend was going through

tightly on to just the sense of herself, the girl must wait an eternity before forcing her will into the world, filling it with all the colour of her heart.

To this critic's eyes, this collection represents an emotional shift in her work; these are real things abstracted from the world but remaining connected to it. The hurly burly of abstraction, whilst still present, exists below the surface now; it is as if she is settled, calmer now, more convinced by the work she is producing. The work feels more mature, and more obviously about something. It speaks of emotional conviction - and of having the courage to speak them - and makes evident her finally being able to separate the inner personal world from the more generalised reality of the everyday ■

*ephemeral space opens at the Gulf Hotel's Palace Lounge on 29th January from 7pm and runs to 7th February.*

*Demi Mcleod can be contacted at demi.mcleod@hotmail or Tel. +973 3642 5701.*

the lengthy process of adopting a child," Demi explains. "It could take more than 18 months and this, whilst not exactly a portrait, depicts her longing and the very real emotions she was experiencing."

Here again, the artist has isolated her subject by contrasting its playful colour with an expanse of emptiness: her world is empty, devoid of definition and she clings



'Cupid's star' 120cm x 140cm



'Study' 100cm x 100cm