



Black Birds, Acrylic on board, 118 x 58 cm, 2005



Seesaw, Acrylic on board, 148 x 88 cm, 2005

## Rozi Demant

Opening Tues 2nd of August from 5.30 pm - 14th of August 2005

Rozi Demant's new series of work continues the depiction and narrative of a woman's life in another world – a mysterious and erotic culture where metaphors of entrapment, elegance and freedom collide in a dark and shadowy landscape.

The human aspect and figures are generally always central to the narrative of Demant's compositions and this new series of paintings are no exception. These figures present a powerful presence within the paintings, except perhaps in "The Rose Tree" where a perfect spray of Roses becomes the focal point. The figures, although unfamiliar to a first time viewer, engage with the props and objects scattered throughout the nocturnal surroundings. Powerful emblems such as cages, black raven, other exotic birds and musical instruments are significant and important additions to the compositions. *"There is a lot of isolation and the birds symbolize freedom, except they are caged..."<sup>1</sup>..... "the woman purging the cages refers to a release of restrictions and insecurities".<sup>2</sup>*

A show of flowers growing from the cracks in Demant's studio became the inspiration for the appearance of bouquets of roses and sparse flowerings on the barren land depicted in these and earlier paintings. As 'supporters in the cast' these flowers bloom and appear at the feet and above the willowy figures. Not only do they support and celebrate the winsome figures, the flowers add elements of optimism and beauty into dramatic and foreboding landscapes.

Rozi Demant, much more than a "dream twister", supplants us face to face with another world. While these enigmatic scenes set before us make for compelling viewing, the viewer is free to choose a level of engagement. While the viewer may feel uncomfortable, perhaps a voyeur peering into a remote and personal world, the effect is palpable.

Text by Warwick Henderson

<sup>1</sup> Pavement Magazine, p. 194, Summer 04-05  
<sup>2</sup> Demant, Rozi, Email to WHG 7 July, 2005



WARWICK HENDERSON GALLERY  
 32 Bath St. Parnell, Auckland, T/F. (09) 309 7513  
 E. info@warwickhenderson.co.nz, W. www.warwickhenderson.co.nz



Volets, Acrylic on board, 118 x 118 cm, 2005

## Rozi Demant

Opening Tuesday 2nd of August from 5.30 pm - 14th of August 2005



Black Iris, Acrylic on board, 182 x 59 cm, 2005



The Rose Tree, Acrylic on board, 100 x 179 cm, 2005



Balancing Cages, Acrylic on board, 118 x 58 cm, 2005



Willows, Acrylic on board, 118 x 58 cm, 2005



Bound, Acrylic on board, 171 x 58 cm, 2005



Girl with Cages, Acrylic on board, 118 x 58 cm, 2005



The Piano, Acrylic on board, 118 x 118 cm, 2005