

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609-3196
Telephone 508.799.4406, Fax 508.798.5646

Contact: Danielle Kane, x3073
daniellekane@worcesterart.org

Release date: Immediate

JODIE MANASEVIT EXHIBIT AT WORCESTER ART MUSEUM EXAMINES PAINTING AS ACTIVITY AND IDEA

(WORCESTER, MASS., May 16, 2005)— For contemporary artist Jodie Manasevit, painting is as much about the process as it is the finished product. A show that documents that philosophy and traces the evolution of the artist's work is now open and will continue through Aug. 21, 2005, at the Worcester Art Museum.

Over the past decade, Manasevit has explored how "just" the stroke of a pigment-laden brush can be both the subject of a painting and the organizational structure of its composition. She displays a kind of painting sensibility that is divested of the need for symbolic reference in order to concentrate on the medium's essential elements — brushstroke, color, space. While some might misconceive this practice as narrow or dispassionate, Manasevit's revelry in the subtleties and refinements of paint applied to a surface ("painting" as a verb) infuse the finished object ("painting" as a noun) with her deep satisfaction and absorption in painting's material conditions.

"Each painting develops as I work with color, the space, the mark-making, the forms," said Manasevit, a resident of Brookline, Mass. "Whether I am working within or without a preconceived structure, the possibility for surprise and discovery is always there. When it's not, I know it's time to move on."

This exhibition traces the evolution of Manasevit's works from the literal experience of her early 1990s "brick" paintings (oil on paving stones), through the complex strata and

rhythms of her “stroke” paintings (either four or five uneven rows of vertical brushstrokes running from edge to edge of a square canvas), and beyond. Color, interval, and touch remain at the heart of Manasevit’s most recent efforts, in which space — specifically that between color bands — take on increased importance.

Compared to her earlier work, the path from Manasevit’s finished product to the paint tube now seems harder to imagine. Yet two things remain unaltered: Throughout changes in materials and execution over the years, Manasevit’s focus has remained on color. When we begin to see how Manasevit “gets the paint across” simultaneously as an activity and an idea, our perceptual capacities are deepened.

Born in 1951 in Bridgeport, Conn., Manasevit received a BS from City University of New York in 1983 and an MFA from Hunter College in New York in 1985. She has taught courses in painting and drawing at several institutions including the Massachusetts College of Art, and is currently on the adjunct faculty of Northeastern University on Boston. Since the mid-1980s, she has participated regularly in group exhibitions throughout the Northeast, and has shown her work in solo exhibitions in New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Boston. Manasevit is represented, in Boston, by Diacono Fine Art.

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from ancient Roman mosaics to Colonial silver, Impressionist paintings and contemporary art. Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (evening hours sponsored by Commerce Bank), and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric, a National Grid Company). The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

#