

b. 1974, Toronto, Canada, lives and works in Melbourne, VIC

NOËL SKRZYPCZAK

In Noël Skrzypczak's paintings, the sublime emanates from an interior psychological space, where psychic energies teeter on the extremities of what is containable. Meticulously crafted and yet highly expressive, Skrzypczak's works at times bring to mind the painterly dalliances of the American Abstract Expressionists. With forms constituted entirely from paint - without a ground or support - they bare the insignia of modernisms' truth to materials: Paint is what paint does. The works record the viscosity of the acrylic, recalling a moment of activity, of fluid in motion. And yet Skrzypczak's production process is based upon a finely tuned methodology that is jarring against other accounts of raw, unthought, emotive expression. These paintings are meditations on psychological flux.

Skrzypczak's recent body of works, *It came out of me*, 2005, refer to the coping mechanism of sublimation, whereby overwhelming and potentially destructive energies of the psyche are channelled into alternative practices, including the creative and the sexual. With a palette of flesh, blood, and shit tones meandering through pop magentas and teal blues, these paintings suggest a guttural response to disturbing events, as traumas are exorcised from the body. In *Lascaux*, 2005, Skrzypczak draws from the forms of Rorschach's ink blot tests, used in personality analyses, particularly in the treatment of the psychologically disturbed. She references also France's Lascaux caves, where vestiges of past lives are evinced via paleolithic paintings on the caves' walls. Their pale pink and lime green swathes retain Skrzypczak's links with pop aesthetics. Ultimately though, this new work is marked by a more foreboding presence - navy blues, purpley reds and deep blacks set the mood of a dark and evasive beauty, a sublime defined by psychic terror.

NOËL SKRZYPCZAK, *It came out of me*, 2005 (detail). Acrylic



Skrzypczak completed a Visual Arts degree at the Australian National University, Institute of the Arts, School of Art with a brief stint at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA. She has exhibited extensively over the past few years. Solo exhibitions include: *Love Letter* at MIR 11 Melbourne, 2004; *All my days*, tbc art inc., Melbourne, 2003 and *How come U don't call me any more?* Canberra Contemporary Art Space Manuka, Canberra, 2002. Recent group exhibitions include: *What If*, The Wedding Circle, Sydney, 2005; *A portable model of everything*, Plimsoll Gallery, Hobart, 2005; *Process Cave*, KingsARI Gallery, Melbourne, 2005; *Address Book*, BUS Gallery, Melbourne, 2004; *Mixed Business*, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne, 2004 and *If U were mine*, GalleryWren, Sydney, 2003.

NOËL SKRZYPCZAK, Lascaux, 2005. (detail) Acrylic

