



Black Tulip, oil on canvas, 2003

Jennifer Harmes Bloom

1 - 16 November 2003

Centre Gallery

Opening function: Saturday, 1 November, 11am



arts • culture • community

13 Reeves Road, P.O. Box 51 222, Pakuranga, Manukau City, Aotearoa New Zealand
Phone (09 577 0138), Fax (09) 577 0139 Hours: 10am – 4pm 7 days

For centuries flowers have been associated with key moments in our lives. Commemorating births, weddings, funerals and ceremonies, they are the time-honoured gift between old friends and new. Flowers are symbols of spontaneous joy and yet at the same time, layered with the experience of the moment, flowers can also summon memories of the past. Each flower has its own voice and the power to evoke intense emotions and encapsulate moods. When the artist paints flowers they bring memories of events in her life – big and small, and most of all, people associated with them, closer to her.

Jennifer Harmes loves the total spontaneity of flowers, and how they fill a space with energy and life. There is so much to learn from their natural rhythms and from their generous, unselfconscious beauty. They remind her of both the simple things and the important things in life. Flowers have the power to make us look at life anew. The nature of flowers, their immediacy, helps us to live in the present: see them this moment as the light falls on

them – tomorrow they'll be different, tomorrow may be too late. To be appreciated in all their richness, flowers need to be looked at – each one is a wonder and not to be wasted. Flowers invite us to slow down, to take the time to stop and stare. Their brief lives have the power to bring our busy minds back to the here and now.

Born in 1962 and raised in Auckland, New Zealand, Jennifer was, from a very early age, encouraged and inspired to draw and paint, by her mother who worked as a commercial artist and illustrator. After completing Sixth Form at Auckland

Girls' Grammar she was accepted into Northwest Nazarene College (Idaho, USA) with several scholarships where she undertook a Bachelor of Arts Degree. After her second year Jennifer returned to NZ to continue studies in graphic design.

She has worked as a graphic designer and stylist for 13 years, predominantly as an art director in the New Zealand magazine industry. She left employment in graphic design in 2000 to paint full-time.

Jennifer Harmes can be contacted on ph: 09 838 6717 or email: jharmes@xtra.co.nz

Yellow Peony, oil on canvas, 2002

- 2003** *Bloom*, Te Tuhi - the mark, Pakuranga, Manukau City. First solo exhibition.
- 2002** Joint exhibition with Anna Palmer, Flagstaff Gallery, Auckland
- 2001** Joint exhibition with Alan Bond, Flagstaff Gallery, Auckland
- 2001** Gallery selection, Flagstaff Gallery, Auckland
- 2001** *Matters of the Heart* – selected artists, Morgan Street Gallery, Auckland
- 2000** Christmas Selection, Morgan Street Gallery, Auckland

