

## UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works on show  
April 7-May 8, 2010  
DFN Gallery  
74 E. 79th Street  
New York, NY 10075  
(212) 334-3400

• SHOW LOCATION NEW YORK, NY

# ALYSSA MONKS

AMERICAN  
**art** COLLECTOR

## Submerged

Alyssa Monks views the new work in her latest exhibition as both signaling the end of one series while introducing another. Her interest in the distortions and effects created by water and steam on a shower door has been replaced by paintings in which she adds other elements to water to create interesting patterns and surface effects around the face. This can be seen in the new paintings titled *Gasp* and *Up*.

"I'm now treating the water itself to create a different surface that isn't so easy to pin down," says Monks. "The water takes on these other qualities, and I like the ambiguous nature of that. You're not sure if it is oil, ice, glass, etc. I'm excited about the possibility of this and love that there is a sense of ambiguity in the filter itself."

Monks has also moved away from the full figure she was doing in her bathtub and shower paintings and is concentrating more on the face. These new pieces are essentially portraits, typically of people who are close to her.

"I can honestly say that I'm exhausted with painting myself," says Monks. "But now people are more willing to pose for me whereas five years ago people were more self-conscious about it and didn't want to be represented. I don't like to work with models I don't know so well, and now I'm getting more friends and family interested in posing, especially since I've been getting away from the body parts and concentrating just on the face."

While the paintings do concentrate on the face and are very expressive and deeply felt, that is not something that Monks intends to do. Instead, she is more interested in exploring the nuances and idiosyncrasies of the face when distorted and affected by water and other elements.

"I'm not even trying to concern myself



GASP, OIL ON LINEN, 48 x 72"



SCREAM, OIL ON LINEN, 48 x 72"



UP, OIL ON LINEN, 42 X 36"

with expressing a certain emotion," says Monks. "That finds its way into the piece but I don't start out with a certain emotion in mind. When I photograph a subject, I have them do everything they want and then pick the composition through intuition and what just feels right. I tend to shy away from

over expressive emotions. I like the subtle ones that allow people to pose their own interpretation of the face." ●

*For a direct link to the  
exhibiting gallery go to*



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