

# FRANCES KEEVIL GALLERY

## DAINA MATTIS

### CHINESE WHISPERS

18 MAY - 1 JUNE 2010

The large works on paper created by Daina Mattis evoke a quiet yet powerful allure. The figures emerge from the paper in a subtle, tranquil fashion seeming to recall a memory. On closer inspection Mattis only reveals what she feels is a necessity for the viewer. Static and quiet are qualities that demand a certain attention, especially in an era where we are constantly surrounded with loud moving imagery. Currently living in New York, Mattis was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, a city with a visual overload. In an image rich culture it is no wonder Mattis strips down the walls of excess providing the viewer with what she feels is valuable. She is challenging the traditional idea of a complete work of art.

The Lithuanian titles come from childhood memories of songs or games. Pele Pele is part of the rhyme from a game where one person has a hidden ring within their hands and they have to pass it to another, and at the end one person has to guess who has it. The rhyme in Lithuanian has a play on words where the actual Lithuanian word for a ring (the kind you wear on your finger) means the same as bloom (like a blooming flower). The ring that is being passed symbolizes a seed, and the planting of a seed. So in the game the rhyme asks who has the seed that will bloom in their hands. *For me it is very significant of the unknown of having or not having. Everyone has something to hide as well, or a secret, or some sort of quality of talent that is unknown to us. All of the people within that painting are artists as well.*

Suk Suk Ratele comes from a Lithuanian song speaking of dancing in a circle where the circle goes one way, and then it turns and goes the other way. It is very similar to Ring Around the Posie, except we don't all fall down at the end.

1	Suk Suk Ratele (diptych)	charcoal & oil on paper	245 x 125cm each	\$12,000	framed diptych
2			or	\$7,000 ea	framed
3	Pele Pele	charcoal & oil on paper	127 x 179 cm	\$6,800	framed
4	Chinese Whispers	charcoal & oil on paper	134 x 309cm	\$14,000	framed
5	Fingers Crossed	charcoal & oil on paper	134 x 99cm	\$3,000	unframed
6	Anna Ajar	graphite & oil on paper	102 x 84cm	\$2,600	unframed
7	Tucked Aside	graphite & oil on paper	101 x 102cm	\$2,800	unframed

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Gallery Hours: Mon - Fri 10 - 5 Sat 10 - 4 Sun 11 - 4