

## MEDIA RELEASE

Jessica Gunn at the McAtamney Gallery, Geraldine

The works of Jessica Gunn at the McAtamney Gallery explore parenthood, childhood and domesticity in single captured moments as fleeting and fragile as childhood itself.

“Working on either board or heavy watercolour paper I treat the surface with several applications of urethane and silica to provide a semi-transparent waxy blanket that forms an organic reference to the body” says Jessica.

After applying a final coat in oils she then works to remove the layers using both cloth and her hands, the technique itself reflects the hands-on tactile nature of parenting ; smoothing and wiping.

Both works on display “Native Clay” and “Lamp Black” are part of the Child Series (2009) They are expressive works, evocative of the spontaneous moments among the routine of parenting. She juxtaposes the mundane and the startling, the familiar moments with the surprising.

“I intend to allude to the uncertain, joyful, exhausting, enlightening, life-changing, beautiful ordinariness of motherhood. Choosing to leave/reveal instinctive hand and finger marks that are not smooth, neither controlled nor measured, but urgent and visceral, I wish to expose human vulnerability and tenderness through paint.”

Gunn's early training in clothing and textile design is evident with glimpses of pattern and fabric - our earliest memories of curtains, furnishings, spaces, shafts of light and dark places represented in a palette reduced to tonal variations of a single colour.

Jessica Gunn's works understand perfectly the importance of perspective on memory and experience, being a child, raising a child. These evocative works capture moments - moments both universal and unique to us all.

“Native Clay” and “Lamp Black” can be seen at the McAtamney Gallery, Geraldine [www.mcatamneygallery.co.nz](http://www.mcatamneygallery.co.nz)