

PIERRE COUPEY: *COUNTERPOINT*
at
GALLERY JONES, February 6 - March 1, 2008

Pierre Coupey has been making art in the form of poetry, print-making and painting for over forty years. His work has received numerous awards, including grants from the Canada Council and the British Columbia Art Council. Coupey's visual art can be found in the collections of the Burnaby Art Gallery, the Kamloops Art Gallery and the Vancouver Art Gallery, among others.

Marcus Bowcott writes in the preface to the exhibition catalogue: "Pierre Coupey's exhibition, *Counterpoint: Recent Work*, embodies two themes: conflict and resolution, or, more specifically, the contrast between acts of war and acts of peace. In the series of paintings on paper there is a palpable density to the images provoked by the "war on terror" and the conflicts in the Middle East. Bearing witness to these events is a central part of this series and Coupey doesn't flinch from conveying feelings of chaos and dread. His paintings address difficult subjects yet they remain formally beautiful, with an understated and resonant balance.



Lebanon, Lebanon, mixed media on paper, 50" x 38"

A fundamental fact of Coupey's practice is his focus on the language of abstraction. He is resolutely committed to an inquiry and understanding of experience — of form and space — through the process of painting. As artist and theorist Ian Wallace has pointed out, "Abstract art has always had an ambivalent relation to what can be said about it. Interpretation is simultaneously demanded and refused." Coupey's abstractions refuse reductive interpretation. Rather, they present us with the urgency of felt experience, and require that we respond with our own personal sense of engagement and feeling."

For more information, images or to contact the artist, please call the gallery.

Regards,

Shane O'Brien