

Janice Gobey
Masters Exhibition 2010
Images: courtesy of the Artist
www.janicegobey.com
Photographer: Michael Fromholtz
www.fromholtz.com.au

"Fur, velvet, satin ... stretched, torn, knotted, folded, these are the things that fire up my imagination ..." writes Gobey in her Artist Statement for Masters of Visual Art exhibition at VCA School of Art.

In her statement she continues to talk about her interests, including 'Sexual Politics' - a complex combination. Almost as complex as 'Religious Politics'. Based on relativity, personal experiences and/or experiments, equally emotionally charged to a point of irrational (in some cases).

According to encyclopedia.com; Kate Millett, the acclaimed feminist power house explains that when one party rules another, their relationship becomes political. If *this* relationship continues for a long time the ultimate result becomes patriarchy and most civilizations are patriarchal. In the 21st century, can a woman defy intimate patriarchy? In her own way - yes she can. I believe that in her Masters offering Gobey attempts this in the most subtle and plausible fashion.

Here is a woman who displays work that forces the viewer to examine a well known place, a private place where the good and the bad transpire. For example in the work titled The Door is Shut; an exquisite scarlet cloth draped in the most inviting way nonetheless full of warning alarms. Why is the door shut? Which door is this? Perhaps one to *her* heart or her private thoughts or even her bedroom - the fact is it is shut, so said a woman.



I've seen Gobey's previous work and one of the many intriguing qualities about her delivery is the subtext that enhances her subtleness while dealing with a subject matter that most endure in life i.e. the dynamics in a partnership. This does not come as a surprise because the artist's undergraduate studies were Psychology and Sociology. Therefore her interest in

people and the society is prominent.

In her other works Gobey plays between the sheets with her brush. In the work titled Asphyxiation (Fig 2) the question here is what lies beneath? The tension created by *this* crimson twisted fabric which ties the cool tint - that is the mass of satin, the overflowing tonal load in the background - what is this place? Has one been here before? Can one shut this place behind a door elegantly clad in a scarlet cloth? I wondered as I moved on to the next indulgent piece of work.



Duel (Fig 3) Look at the knots; how they create a beautiful tension and the way they float before a dark - dark space. The brushstroke is immaculate, the compositions so easy on the eye yet the questions continue to arise; is there something the two parties forgot to discuss? Have the tables turned? Is someone angry? Who knows?



I know that I enjoyed Gobey's work and I love art, for it gives the viewer an opportunity to

interpret what lies before their eyes.
And this is my interpretation.

Gobey will be exhibiting work entitled Touch me “which promises to be very furry” she writes, on 24th March in North Melbourne. Check details closer to date on my website makingwithwords.com