

## GALERIE MEDIART

109, rue Quincampoix -75003 PARIS - 01 42 78 44 93-

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### PRESS RELEASE

## Monica Jahan Bose

### Water, Love, Language: Fragments of Identity

**Exhibition from 24th January to 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2009**

Opening reception Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> January from 3 to 6 pm

Closing reception Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February from 3 to 6 pm



"Chambre de Bonne," acrylic on canvas, 89x130 cm



"Valentines Day 4," mixed media on canvas, 89x130 cm

Galerie Médiart presents a special nine-day solo exhibition by Bangladeshi-American painter Monica Jahan Bose from January 24, 2009 through February 1, 2009. This is the artist's first exhibition in Paris.

In her exhibition, *Water, Love, Language: Fragments of Identity*, Bose features nearly two dozen works that resonate with emotion, color, and unbound energy, where each painting draws upon her roots in Bangladesh, and her experience in the world. Her fragmented narratives are a compelling blend of autobiography and social/political commentary. As both an artist and activist, Bose explores some of today's most pressing issues: the subjugation of women, rising religious fundamentalism, and global warming. Her images often incorporate passages of Bengali writing, in part as an expression of her intense attachment to her mother tongue. Many of her works navigate the confusion and complexity inherent in our multicultural world, and seek to question what is "home" and our conscious or unconscious longing for that place. Though she addresses challenging subjects in her paintings, her scenes also possess a playfulness that tempers sometimes overwhelming global content. She eagerly feeds on expressionistic color, and is a master of complex composition, borrowing elements from pop art, folk art, figuration, and abstraction to build her energized tableaux. Above all, there is a precarious balance in her work that speaks to a kind of life force, confirming that she remains an optimist who is deeply confident in the resilience of human beings.

Born in Britain to Bengali parents, Monica Jahan Bose has lived in England, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, the United States, and Japan. Since 2006, she has lived and worked in Paris, France, and has degrees in both art and law. She was born into a family that is both Hindu and Muslim, and is divided between Bangladesh and West Bengal in India, giving her a special perspective on religious and geographic divisions. Her parents were both political activists and fought to make Bangla (Bengali) a national language in East Pakistan, before it became the independent country of Bangladesh. She was a young child in Bangladesh during the liberation war against Pakistan, and at age seven won first place for a painting of a women's rights rally in Bangladesh. More recently, she has been actively involved with several women's organizations, focusing on such issues as violence against women, the rights of immigrant women, and female literacy. She has also taught and practiced law for many years, representing disadvantaged women, immigrants, and environmental groups, and currently serves on the board of directors of a non-profit organization that works to increase female literacy and improve the lives of women and children in Bangladesh.

For further information, or images, please consult the artist's website at <http://monicajahanbose.com/> or contact the Galerie Médiart owner, Ms. Odile Van Buy, at 331 42 78 44 93.