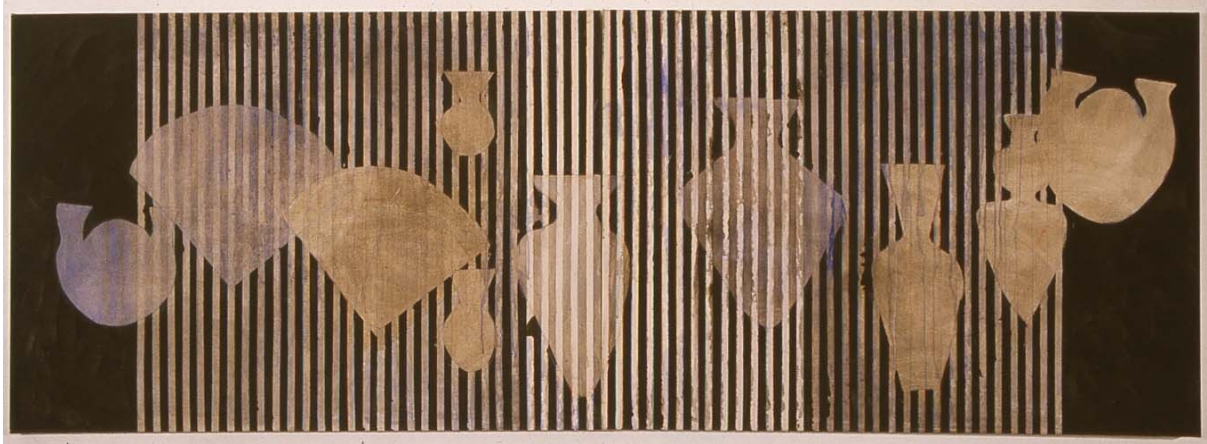


# ART FORUM 2005

## #14 –July 15th DENISE GREEN



### **“Metonymy in Contemporary Art”**

“In this lecture I shall present a new paradigm for contemporary art based on an Indian way of thinking as formulated by the late A.K. Ramanujan, a major Indian poet and linguist at the University of Chicago. I begin by defining metonymy and then give Ramanujan’s Indian way of using it in contrast to the Western one. I then provide examples of how this process is present in Australian Aboriginal artworks. This is followed by a discussion of three different phases of my own work in which I show how an Eastern metonymic process has been increasingly present.

Joel Shapiro and Joseph Beuys have influenced my work and I was drawn to them because of what I now realize to be their metonymic way of thinking. I also quote from Barry le Va on his creative process and show how his work lends itself to being interpreted metonymically. In the last part of the lecture I describe making the painting “Re-Witnessing.” This work was done in the aftermath of having witnessed the World Trade Center attack and it resonates metonymically with a trauma from my childhood in Brisbane.

In conclusion, I discuss how an Eastern mode of metonymic thinking allows contemporary art to be understood and interpreted from a broader, more global and pluralist perspective.

My book, “Metonymy in Contemporary Art: A New Paradigm” is an original theory of aesthetics, art criticism and modes of creativity, derived from Aboriginal and Indian thought, that is relevant to contemporary painting. Although it is a personal statement by one artist, it invites a re-consideration of where art comes from and focuses attention on various international sources of inspiration. “

I shall be in Australia for the launch of the book and to attend the opening of my Project show on June 17 at the University Art Museum in Brisbane. I shall also visit Tasmania and would be interested in presenting a lecture on the ideas related to the book.”

Denise Green is an Australian artist living in New York. A survey of her work was held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in April, 2001, a retrospective exhibition of her artwork is currently touring in Germany.

\*\*\*\* 12.30 pm Dechaineux Lecture Theatre \*\*\*\*

The School of Art-Hobart The University of Tasmania