

1998 Alice Mansell

Alice Mansell lives and works in Canada. She is an artist and at this time Academic Vice President at the Technical University of British Columbia.

When I first encountered Joanna Jones' paintings I was transfixed by the sense that the colour and transparency enveloped me. When I learned that she performed the work with her body, and when I met her and found her personality as vivid and intense as her work, I knew that we needed to work together.

Her work compels sensual looking so intent that one immediately goes beyond the visual, pleasure of the eye, to a deeper more physical engagement with those traces of image choreography.

She quotes colours, shapes and vistas of the canonical "great painting" texts of western art history and performs those abstracted elements with her body onto the expanse of the canvas.

In so doing she robs those traditions of their reliance on the eye and mind to fix them to categories and stories firmly in the past.

They force the viewer to be immersed in the heightened pleasure of looking from inside a body in the present moment. We connect the experience of our bodily connection to the fabric of hue, motion, gesture that lives in a portrait of the textures of the sensual body.

** Extract from "The Texture and the Text; Clothing the Body"
Joanna Jones and Alice Mansell Leicester City Gallery and Museum 1998*