



# PressRelease

## **Melissa Turner Drumm: “Disturbing the Piece” November 3 – December 15, 2007 The New Works Space At the McKinney Avenue Contemporary The MAC**

HOURS OF OPERATION:  
Wed.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
3120 McKinney Ave Dallas 75204  
Website: [www.the-mac.org](http://www.the-mac.org)

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INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE  
JPEG Images are available by e-mail

The McKinney Avenue Contemporary (The MAC) is pleased to announce the exhibition of New Orleans artist Melissa Turner Drumm in the New Works Space. The exhibition will open on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> with a reception from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM and the artist will be in attendance.

Melissa Turner Drumm is a native of New Orleans and relocated to Dallas, Texas three weeks prior to the unknown Katrina disaster. "Disturbing the Piece" by Melissa Turner Drumm is a series of fifteen pieces from 2006 - 2007 that exemplify the artists most recent work; etched, torched, waxed, hammered and painted on copper.

It has been said that after the destruction of the Garden of Eden man would be left with the curse of only thorns and thistle. The thistle is the symbol of earthly sorrow and sin. Used in these pieces the thistle illuminates the destruction of neighborhood pieces of property. Houses are torn down and the piece of land is waiting for an oversized "constrosity" to be built. Without use of an architect or urban planning design only the thistle is left in the meantime.

Copper is a soft metal of the earth and steeped in art history, particularly printmaking for etching and intaglio. The process of printing has been eliminated to reveal the natural beauty within copper itself. By seemingly destroying the piece of artwork by waxing, torching, hammering, etching or painting the copper proves many of its own strong colors and textures.

The reflective quality of metal creates a nervous narcissism to prompt moving around the piece at different angles. By seeing a new way to look, perhaps, we can solve new ways to balance destruction and construction, restoration and preservation with already existing natural beauty. Conservation with growth and progress, not just change or expansion, will create "piece" of mind and landscape.

Melissa Turner Drumm received a BFA in 1984 in painting and printmaking from Newcomb College in New Orleans, Louisiana and studied at the graduate school of Bard College in 1985. During 1986 Drumm was an artist in resident at the School of Visual Arts in New York and also attended St. Martins School of Design in London, England in 1981- 1982. Her work has been exhibited internationally at Frederic ENGEL in Paris, France as well as galleries in New York, New Orleans and Los Angeles.

**The McKinney Avenue Contemporary (The MAC)** is a non-profit organization offering the opportunity for experimentation and the presentation of art in all disciplines. The MAC supports the artist's roll in society by providing emerging and established artists a forum for critical dialogue with their audiences. The MAC cultivates this relationship through education and innovative programming. The MAC stands as a Dallas advocate for creative freedom. The MAC has been a Dallas establishment since 1994. The MAC is a member of Dallas Art Dealers Association and The Uptown Association.