



Friday, September 23, 2005

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MELISSA BUTTON  
Monotypes  
November 18, 2005 - February 12, 2006

A monotype is considered a type of printmaking but there is no such thing as an "edition". It is what it says it is, a mono or single print. The unique character of the final product lies in the method or methods of execution. A monotype is made by brushing, smearing, rolling or stamping ink and /or paint on a smooth surface such as glass or metal. The image is then scratched, pushed, blotted and still more paint or ink may be added with a brush until the image is complete. It is then printed on paper by rolling or rubbing the back or run through a press. Often the work is not considered complete until many trials are executed on the plate and the artist is satisfied with the result. There may be several finished works based on the same beginning but each one is different and considered a separate work. The French artist Degas was known to have created monotypes as early as the 19th century.

Melissa Button was born in Tucson, Arizona 1971. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Design Architecture and her Masters of Fine Arts from Arizona State University - Tempe, AZ with an emphasis on Painting and Drawing. She has also taught at Arizona State University.

She has exhibited at g2 Gallery, Dinnerware Gallery, Scottsdale Community College, Phoenix Art Museum and galleries in Fort Collins, Colorado and Santa Fe, NM.

Button's images deal with clowns and circuses. While the images are fresh and have the look of a child's toys come to life, most of the works are rendered in neutral tones and seem to be saying something darker.

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



Melissa Button



“Clown No. 1” Monotype by Melissa Button



“Cowboy Clown” Monotype by Melissa Button



“All Clowns In The Air” Monotype by Melissa Button

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