

PRESS RELEASE:
Lili Phung: The Lickin' That Doesn't Hurt
22nd June – 25th August 2007

Allsopp Contemporary is pleased to announce its forthcoming exhibition Lili Phung: The Lickin' That Doesn't Hurt. This new group of paintings will be the artists' first solo show with the gallery and her first in the UK.

Lili Phung's paintings are at once dirty, nostalgic and raw. The young French artist fuses references, moods and sentiments to create complex canvases of striking depth and maturity. Much of the imagery draws on sixties American film and TV iconography with scenes of domestic bliss hiding behind layers of gesturally applied paint and surface-based text. Texturally Phung's canvases are heavily worked, going through many stages of development. It is this layering of components, time and mood that further enhances the delicate relationship between what's been left behind and what lies ahead.



Lili Phung, Untitled (I like black boys), 2007, oil on canvas, 200 x 200 cm

In this new body of work we see images taken from classic adverts or road signs emerge next to provocative scrawls ('I like black boys') or seemingly random text ('Golf News'). In one large canvas human innards are smudged over by a large crucifix – a girl's, a virgin's? Elsewhere stockinged legs lie next to a six-fingered hand, everywhere sexy limbs and body parts reveal themselves. The Lickin' That Doesn't Hurt shows a young French woman asserting her aggressive breed of feminism whilst simultaneously seducing her audience. Phung's canvases are quirky, perverted and tinged with tragedy.

Lili Phung (b.1977) trained at the Ecole de Beaux Arts Paris. She has shown at the Fondation Cartier (2005) and was part of Allsopp Contemporary's 2006 group exhibition PARISITES: Julien Berthier, Lili Phung, Nicolas Pol. She lives and works in Paris.