

# ROBERT STEELE GALLERY

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*Dip, 2003, Acrylic on canvas, 54x66in.*

## Press Release

**Fred Cress |Paintings & Works on Paper**

**12 April – 12 May 2007**

The **Robert Steele Gallery** at 511 West 25th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues in Chelsea is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by **Fred Cress**, opening on Thursday,

April 12th through May 12th, 2007. A reception for the artist will be held Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8pm. Also on view in the gallery's Project Room will be works on paper by **Jeff Lowe**. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 to 6pm and by appointment.

Born in India, Cress studied art at the Birmingham College of Art where he first acquired his significant drawing skills. He migrated to Australia where he established himself as one of the foremost abstract painters in the country. The mid 1980's brought a critical shift away from abstraction to figuration as the artist felt his primary goal should be as a maker of images.

Beginning with abstract/figurative paintings about themes of secrecy, the work developed over the years to the depiction of emotions within the human condition, unafraid to include sex, greed, venality and the lust for power alongside success and the exaltation of spirit.

Cress, whose paintings present an acerbic and allegorical commentary on the contemporary human condition, writes: *“Human nature and human values underpin the images I create and particularly those aspects that all of us prefer to keep hidden from view. Picture making is important and I enjoy narratives based on everyday existence. To turn the petty into the significant, to give it drama, colour, movement yet fix it as a memorable image – that’s the aim.*

Fred Cress has won numerous awards and prizes including the 1988 Archibald portrait prize and has represented Australia abroad. His work was honored with a survey exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 1995. Cress has had over 50 solo (and participated in over 80) group exhibitions since 1965. His work hangs in the National Gallery of Australia, all Australian State Galleries and private and corporate collections in Australia, England, France, Holland, USA, Switzerland, Italy and New Zealand. A full color, 180-page monograph by Gavin Fry is available through the gallery and in bookstores. In January of 2003 he was awarded the Order of Australia.

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*Two Waves, 2003. Acrylic on canvas, 60x66 in.*





*Seconds, 2004. 60x66 in.*