

For Immediate Release

## **Robert Birmelin**

### *Citizens*

Robert Birmelin's paintings convey a vision of the city's environment in all its anonymous intimacy, where the physical and psychological boundaries between crowd and self blur. Mobs of people pass fantastically through a woman's profile; the bust of a man dematerializes by the riverfront. Disjunctive shifts of scale, focus, and orientation spell out this urban narrative, where pictorial restlessness underlies a multifaceted perspective. These paintings attempt to capture the disorienting common space of public life, where strangers may be simultaneously aware of yet invisible to each other.

Having worked and exhibited in New York City for more than forty years, Birmelin displays an acute awareness of the city's relentless social transformation that is as disconcerting for the immigrant who confronts an alien world as for the long-time resident who struggles with the sense of inevitable change. His provocative, brilliantly colored paintings startle the viewer as they capture the churning, tumultuous, and hallucinatory experience of New York's melting pot.

This is Birmelin's eighteenth solo exhibition in New York since 1960. He is a recent grant recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation.

**Title:**           **Robert Birmelin**  
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**Dates:**         **14 September - 28 October 2006**

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