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Press Preview: Friday, June 5, from 2 - 4 pm

Please RSVP to Heide Hendricks

The Adventures of Volitia: Heroic Burlesque

June 7 - July 18, 1998

Ridgefield (March 18, 1998)--The Aldrich Museum is pleased to present the first solo museum exhibition of artist Melissa Marks. The Erna D. Leir gallery will become a dedicated "performance space" for the latest installment of the continuing adventures of her fantastical and allegorical heroine "Volitia," presented here in a series of large scale drawings.

Best described by the artist, *Volitia (as in volition) is the first self-aware abstraction, a hybrid hero; part superman, part hot-house flower and part Eve-creation come to life.* Exquisitely rendered in black watercolor on paper, Marks's intricate drawing installation documents, in a Muybridge fashion, her creation Volitia traversing the gallery walls in a continuous dance performance. The fluidity of Volitia's movements sweeps her mutating form towards the stage area of the gallery, where she leaps from her paper world directly onto the walls--commandeering center stage.

This drawing installation is part of an on-going visual narrative about Volitia's adventures presented by the artist at various venues, including the Gramercy International Contemporary Art Fair (via Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, NY) and Art in General, NY. Ms. Marks is a graduate of Wesleyan University and holds a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University.

The Adventures of Volitia: Heroic Burlesque will be on view from June 7 through July 18, 1998. A color brochure accompanies the exhibition.