

## **ROBERTS & TILTON**

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### **Delphine Courtillot October 14 - November 12, 2005**

Working with gouache on paper, Delphine Courtillot's strangely epic, exquisite paintings capture the seductiveness and sublime mysteries of country manor homes and other oddly compelling, though often truncated scenarios, with a divinely nuanced and complex sensibility.

Courtillot's narratives exist as implications either of some future happiness, or of some distinctive memory on the verge of being forgotten. French courtiers and courtesans stand, distant and languorous, on a vibrant green lawn awash in light, and it is as though the artist has simultaneously captured both the stunning regality and the divine sense of stoicism that so typified eighteenth century France.

In Courtillot's world, a maid wearing the signature black and white uniforms that exemplified high society servantry, walks brazenly into a wild garden, disrupting the balance between discretion and carnality. All of Courtillot's images are quietly disarming, yet foreshadow some future menace.

These are people who might very well make an appearance in a D.H. Lawrence novel, where social mores are constantly at odds with eroticism. Questions are posed, but never answered directly. Women stand, vulnerable, yet oddly empowered, on the brink of some personal fascination, or could it be their seduction is our salvation, and without it, we would be lost?