

## **The Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant 2008**

**Cecile Chong**, an MFA student at Parsons, has been awarded a grant from the The Joan Mitchell Foundation. The Annual MFA Grant Program was created in 1997 and is given in recognition of artistic quality. The grant aids exceptional MFA painters and sculptors to further their artistic careers and transition from academic to professional studio work. Chong was one of 15 students who were chosen from a nationwide body of candidates.

Chong was born in Ecuador of Chinese parents. Her work has been included in exhibition at El Museo's (S) Files, Corridor Gallery, and Kenise Barnes Fine Art. Upon graduating she will participate in the Emerge Program at Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art in Newark, New Jersey. In July, she will be part of an art residency at Vermont Studio Center. Prior to her MFA at Parsons she obtained an MA in Education from Hunter College, and a BA in Studio Art from Queens College. Her early schooling took place in Ecuador, Macau, and mainland China.

The Joan Mitchell Foundation was established in April, 1993 as a not-for-profit corporation following the death of Joan Mitchell in October, 1992. The Foundation strives to fulfill the ambition of Joan Mitchell to aid and assist contemporary artists and to demonstrate that painting and sculpture are cultural necessities.