

A.I.R.

GALLERY

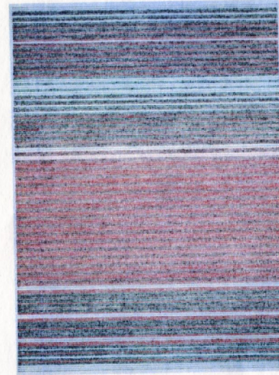
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**Letters Without Text**  
**BEATRICE RIESE**

October 6 – November 2, 2002

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Words Without Text*, a new works exhibition of ink on canvas and handmade paper drawings by Beatrice Riese, October 8 – November 3, 2002. There will be an opening reception for the public, Saturday, October 12 from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

This series takes an element present in Riese's previous work – blocks of tiny, abstracted letters embedded within the painting or drawing – and isolates them as works in their own right. At close examination the tiny hatch marks reveal letters randomly repeated, the round letters omitted to underscore the tension between abbreviated verticality and extended horizontality. In his essay for the exhibition catalogue, Donald Kuspit writes of Riese's method, "[she is] writing with the excruciating deliberateness of a royal scribe, crafting letters so that the beauty of their shapes seems to become the substance of their meaning." This image of Riese as scribe is further suggested by the titles within the series. Names like *Rurutu* and *Malekula*, *Biwat* and *Choiseul*, imply ancient documents recovered from the archeological records of bygone civilizations.

The introduction of colored ink, in red and green, as well as lines of negative space, add a linear undulation where there was overall pattern. Kuspit writes, "Riese's works are subtly colored, making them all the more evocative – atmospheric and expressive – as well as directly optical . . . their parallel repetition and eccentric seriality show that she is able to contain their excitement – give it a rhythmic form that makes the work as a whole seem serene, at least from a distance."

For more information contact Gallery Director, Dena Muller, at 212.255.6651.  
Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00am to 6:00pm.

SHOWING QUALITY WORK BY A DIVERSE GROUP OF WOMEN ARTISTS  
AND PROVIDING LEADERSHIP AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY