



Sarah Blackwelder, *Safe as Houses*

November 4 – November 29, 2009

Reception: Thursday, November 5th, from 6pm to 8pm

BROOKLYN, NY, October 2009 - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Safe as Houses*, an exhibition of new work by Sarah Blackwelder. The exhibition will be on view from November 4th through 29, 2009. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, November 5th from 6pm to 8pm.

Safe as Houses is a series of drawings of rural and suburban American homes. The renderings are small, placed in the middle of the large, white sheets of paper. The diminutive size exposes the vulnerability of structures that should offer security. The houses in Blackwelder's drawings are fragile shelters — their promise of comfort is susceptible to so many different threats: natural disasters, economic instability, as well as emotional turmoil and physical illness that can destroy a home from within.

The series takes root in our flailing economy and unpredictable global climate. If the houses can stand the storms brought on by greenhouse gasses, will they also escape foreclosure? How long can they really keep us out of the cold? The materials, ink on paper, were chosen for their vulnerability. Ink runs easily with water and unprotected paper is at risk from many damaging elements. The drawings, like the houses, need care for their survival.

Blackwelder received her MFA from the New York Academy of Art in 2003 and has exhibited in several galleries in and around New York City, including the Society of Illustrators Guild Hall, Chashama and Micro Museum. Sarah is a former fellowship recipient at A.I.R. *Safe as Houses* is her second solo show with the gallery.

A.I.R. – ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS SINCE 1972. A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228, in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11am to 6pm. For directions please see www.airgallery.org. For additional information, please contact A.I.R. Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.