

A.I.R.

GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOYEON CHO
Beyond the Forbidden

September 13 – October 8, 2005

Opening reception: Thursday, September 15, 6-8pm

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by artist Soyeon Cho, September 13 – October 8, 2005, with a public reception for the artist Thursday, September 15, from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The solo exhibition, entitled *Beyond the Forbidden*, is the main component of the artist's 2005-2006 Fellowship at A.I.R.

Soyeon Cho's sculptural installations take everyday objects such as "q-tips", plastic cutlery, telephone wire, wood, and light fixtures and assemble them into dreamscape environments of movement, light and color. With the exception of an occasional branch or stump, the objects are not so much found as acquired, the products and byproducts of mass production and modern excess. Cho's materials, quotidian items purchased in bulk, or discarded supplies collected when past their utility, are transformed into an autobiographical terrain of self based in equal parts on fantasy and experience. Through her process, these common functional objects are given a second life as uncommon art objects. Cho explains, "The everyday materials represent the banality, the stress and the frustration of ordinary life. By taking these common and prevalent materials and creating something unreal I am transforming my world into a more fantastic place where I am not afraid to dream."

This exhibition, while made up of several separate installation pieces, becomes a habitat in which the artist's furtive sense of personhood and her unrestrained imagination dance and spar for prominence. A sense of yearning for inclusion and conformity underlies the persistent and defiant invention of a world apart. The celebration of color, energy, shadow and projection in the work makes a triumph of the latter.

Cho has an MFA in sculpture from Seoul National University in Korea and from the School of Visual Arts in New York. Since arriving in the United States from Korea in 2003, Cho's work has been included in several group shows in New York, nationally and internationally. This is her first solo exhibition in the United States. In 2004 she received the Andy Gerber Memorial Award from the Center on Contemporary Art in Seattle, Washington.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm.
For further information, please contact 212. 255. 6651 or visit www.airnyc.org.