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***Leave a little emptiness... an exhibition by Barbara Hatfield***

April 1 – 26, 2008      Opening Reception, Thursday April 3, 6pm – 8pm

NEW YORK, NY. March 2008 – A. I. R. Gallery is pleased to present *Leave a little emptiness . . .*, an exhibition of drawings, paintings and prints by Barbara Hatfield, 2007-2008 A.I.R. Fellowship Recipient. The exhibition dates are April 1 – 26 with an opening reception Thursday, April 3 from 6-8 PM.

With the most basic of tools and materials – brush, pigment, graphite, and paper – Hatfield creates striking enigmatic works. At the same time they speak directly of the physical world, they offer the viewer entry to a place of inner experience, a space simultaneously intimate and immense. Her works exemplify an attention to the integrity and inherent characteristics of materials, as they become both substance and subject matter. Watercolor grids are immediate and direct. A series of prints, employing only black ink, suggests the distance of aerial views and the interiority of sonograms. The work is patient and sometimes humorous, abundant in its distillation and complex in its simplicity.

Hatfield draws the title of her exhibition from the writings of eighth century painter and poet Wang Wei. “Leave a little emptiness between the distant and the near.” Hatfield says, “ I was particularly struck by Wang Wei’s statement. I understand it as both instruction and invitation; it has become a guiding principle. It reminds me to breathe consciously, to be aware of the everyday and the commonplace, of the liveliness and possibility for beauty to be found in a single mark or a complete work. I am most interested in inquiry, in the energy, frequency and tone of a work. I am acutely aware of the energy of use in the cast-off and discarded, the constancy of change.”

Hatfield received her MFA from Parsons The New School for Design in New York City. She has exhibited at the Unit B Gallery in San Antonio; the North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks; FiveMyles, Brooklyn; Dinaburg Arts, New York; Long Island University Salena Gallery, Brooklyn; La Mama La Galleria, New York and Kentler International Drawing Space, Brooklyn among others. Her works are in the permanent collection of the North Dakota Museum of Art and private collections in the US, Switzerland, Germany, France and Japan.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 511 West 25th Street, NYC.  
Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11am-6pm.

Contact: Kat Griefen, Director, A.I.R. Gallery  
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The A.I.R. Fellowship Program is made possible by generous support from numerous organizations including:



*Drawing 7.31, detail*