



Celebrating Kindred Spirits and Strange Bedfellows

A.I.R. National & International Artists Exhibition

Curated by Catherine J. Morris

March 28th – April 21, 2012

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 29th, 6 – 8:30pm

Curator's Talk: 5:30 pm

Brooklyn, NY March 2012 – A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Celebrating Kindred Spirits and Strange Bed Fellows*, an exhibition by A.I.R.'s national and international members, curated by Catherine J. Morris. Artists in the exhibition include: *Kate Ali, Judy Cooper, Leigh Craven, Phyllis Ewen, Melissa Furness, Ann Ginsburgh Hofkin, Terry Gips, Nicole Jacquard, Jan Johnson, Julia Kim Smith, K. A. Letts, Gladys Tietz Mercier, Haley Morris-Cafiero, Nancy Morrow, Esther Naor, Ardine Nelson, Meghan Quinn, Belle Shafir, Marie Sivak, and Erin Wiersma.*

This exhibition brings together twenty different artists, all of whom create work within the enduring feminist concept: ***the personal is political***, and with Catherine J. Morris' curatorial eye, each artist is represented as an individual. As A.I.R. Gallery enters its 40th Anniversary year, it is apparent to the observer that the women showing in this exhibition carry on the priorities that have been part of A.I.R.'s mission since its inception in 1972. As Morris writes in the accompanying catalogue, the artists "speak to the fluid strength of the methodological framework offered by feminism."

As A.I.R. Gallery celebrates four decades of supporting women artists, Morris continues by stating, "It is clear that the glue that holds this group together is a commitment to A.I.R. Gallery – and, by extension, a dedication to the social, cultural, and political priorities that A.I.R. represents. The women who have contributed to, built, fostered and guided A.I.R. Gallery for forty years do not constitute a movement or school with all that those art historical designations imply. Instead, what I see in them is a cohesive and vitally important social force with a unique commitment to a joint cultural and political mission." The bedfellows become strange when one tries, unnecessarily, to fit a diverse group of artists into a framework that could not truly hold them. "A celebration is much more fitting, and is certainly in the spirit of an institution that for forty years has supported, sustained and advocated for women artists."

A.I.R. (Artists in Residence) Gallery was founded in 1972 as the first artist-run gallery for women in the United States. A.I.R. provides a professional and permanent exhibition space for women artists to present work of quality and diversity. A.I.R. is an artist-directed and maintained gallery, providing a sense of community for women and serving as a model for alternative galleries and organizations. Through lectures, symposia and a Fellowship Program for emerging women artists, A.I.R. Gallery sustains a political awareness and voice and thus brings new understanding to attitudes about women in the arts.

As Curator of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum, **Catherine J. Morris** has organized exhibits by artists Rachel Kneebone, Djuna Barnes, Matthew Buckingham, Lorna Simpson, Kiki Smith, and Sam Taylor-Wood. She also curated *Eva Hesse: Spectres 1960* and *Seductive Subversion: Women Pop Arts, 1958-1968* for the Brooklyn Museum. Further exploring feminist issues and their impact on the development of visual culture, Morris has independently organized exhibits for the Sculpture Center, Long Island City, New York, White Columns, New York, the MIT List Visual Art Center, and co-curated for the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University. In September 2012, *Materializing Six Years: Lucy R. Lippard and the Emergence of Conceptual Art*, co-curated by Morris, will open at the Sackler Center.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228 in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wed. – Sun., 11am to 6pm. For directions please visit www.airgallery.org. For more information please contact Gallery Director, Julie Lohnes at 212-255-6651 or jlohn@airgallery.org.