

A.I.R.

GALLERY

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tues-sat, 11-6

Barbara Siegel Sideshow

Oct. 11 -Nov. 4, 2006



New York, N.Y., September 5, 2006 - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce Sideshow, an exhibition of multi-media installations by Barbara Siegel. The opening reception will be held October 12, 2006 from 6pm to 8pm.

Sideshow is an exhibition of biographical works inspired by the unique and creative lives of five unusual individuals and the honkey-tonk magic of Coney Island. As art historian and curator Kristen

Frederickson writes about Siegel's work: "Siegel delves into the realm of memorialization and honoring in her work. Through a combination of found and reconstructed materials, some organic and some manmade, some transitory and some with an air of timelessness, she reaches into the personal history of extraordinary people and their legacies. Siegel is inspired by the experiences and legacies of carnival performers and bereaved widows, as well as by the daily significance of all the people who surround us and whose histories and achievements remain unknown. Influenced by such disparate artists as Eva Hesse and Marsden Hartley, she recreates a tapestry of details, repeated and recontextualized and in doing so maps a charted territory of the individual whose significance lies in collaboration and social context."

Accompanied by audio-interviews with four of her subjects, Siegel's installations take a quirky look at the lives of Bea Muller, a widow in her 80's and the sole permanent resident of the QEII ocean-liner, Hector G. Wallace, the ebullient Jamaican-born artist who has for the past 25 years painted the food and amusement park signs at Coney island, Melvin Burkhart, the "Human Blockhead," a renowned sideshow performer, Jennifer Miller, a former star of the Coney Island sideshow and star and impresario of her traveling Circus Amok, and Lucia Gimeno, a thoughtful and outspoken young person committed to candidly and sensitively exploring life's complex challenges.

This is Barbara Siegel's first solo show as a member of A.I.R. Gallery. She has had solo shows at Marilyn Pearl Gallery, Hartnett Murray Gallery, Lehman College Gallery/CUNY, Nina Freudenheim Gallery, Manhattanville College Gallery, and the Gallery of South Orange. Her work is in many public collections including the Albright Knox Gallery, The National Gallery, and the Newark Museum. She is a long-time faculty member of Parsons School of Design.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 511 West 25th Street, NYC. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11am-6pm. For information please contact the director, Kat Griefen at 212.255.6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.