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Haejin Yoon, *Moon Spell*, April 1 – April 26, 2009
Opening Thursday, April 2 from 6-8 pm

BROOKLYN, NY, MARCH, 2009 - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce ***Moon Spell***, a solo exhibition by Gallery Artist, **Haejin Yoon**. The exhibit will be on view from April 1 to April 26, 2009 with an opening reception held on Thursday, April 2 from 6 to 8pm.

*"She loves someone who everyone hates.
She ate up someone who everyone loves."* – Haejin Yoon

Moon Spell is Yoon's first solo show at A.I.R. Gallery. The installation of monumental monsters – paintings, mixed media works, drawings and stuffed soft sculptures - inhabit both Gallery I and Gallery II, making her the first artist, since the gallery's opening in its new location in 2008 to exhibit work on this scale. The amazing range of materials and moods in these still very consistent and accomplished works is the product of a rigorous studio practice.

Beneath the endearing qualities of Yoon's characters Moon Spell is essentially about metamorphosis and personal magic. The artist explores the realm of fairytales and the fear of isolation using bright colors and soft faux furs to create sympathetic creatures that are influenced equally by the stories of Dr. Seuss as those of Hans Christen Anderson. The expressive painting, "Falling into River" depicts a man near suicide who is bloated and buoyant like a balloon. In Yoon's alchemic sensibility, another sculpture shows a mop that has devoured the sun. These enigmatic figures and open-ended narratives are often twisted and transgressive, revealing intense psychological complexity. As in her earlier series, Yoon draws from various psycho-cosmograms including Tibetan Yantra and Tantric Amulet as well as Korean Shamanic Colors. As Yoon also "reconstructs western postmodernism's abstract languages..." she utilizes bold colors and forms, suggesting contemporary pop culture references such as action figures, graffiti and horror movies (Art Review Newspaper, Korea). The paintings are optical and structural horror vacui.

Haejin Yoon received her MFA from Parsons School for Design in 2005. She is an educated outsider artist. Her work has been exhibited in numerous group exhibitions in Korea, Japan and the United States. In addition to her own work, Yoon served as curator at Planaria Gallery in Chelsea in 2005, organizing a number of group exhibitions which were reviewed in The New York Times, including "Sympathetic Magic" and "Nick Payne and Don Porcella."

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 see www.airgallery.org. For more information please contact Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.



Image: Haejin Yoon, *Falling into River*, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 72"X36"