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***For Immediate Release***

**damali abrams,**  
*Autobiography Of A Year*  
May 26 – June 20, 2010  
Reception: Thursday, May 27th  
from 6pm to 8pm



**BROOKLYN, NY May 2010** – A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Autobiography of A Year*, an exhibition of new work by 2009-2010 A.I.R. Fellowship Artist, damali abrams. The Opening Reception will be held on Thursday, May 27th, from 6 to 8pm. Additionally, A.I.R. Gallery and Self-Help TV will host “Self Help Swap,” an interactive event organized by abrams, on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm.

damali abrams’ recent video work is the culmination of a year of footage recorded every day of 2009, the year of abrams’ 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. *Autobiography of a Year* will be exhibited as a four-channel video installation that takes abrams’ personal history as a point of departure. In the spirit of artists such as Sophie Calle, Annie Sprinkle, and Linda Montano, the events in abrams’ life became the medium for her art. This year-long project has served as a D.I.Y. rite of passage and as an opportunity for deep and prolonged self-examination.

Playing on familiar political and cultural events as well as more intimate encounters, abrams’ work speaks specifically about her experience as an African-American woman artist living in New York City, but also more broadly about the larger time and place. Playing on the tropes of other medias and formats such as the music video, the video-diary, and the short, quirky public access show, abrams renders the work accessible to a broad audience. Her combination of humor, the mundane and the awkward, and even uncomfortable honesty is a compelling mix.

abrams began her ongoing video-performance project, *Self-Help TV*, in 2007. *Self-Help TV* is a fictional television network with programming that uses abrams’ body and personal history as a point of departure. Employing a range of televisual formats from comedy to children’s programming, *Self-Help TV* has been viewed in traditional galleries, as well as in classrooms and a doctor’s office. *Autobiography of a Year* is an extension of this work.

**damali abrams** is a Guyanese-American video-performance artist who lives and works in NYC. She received her BA at New York University and her MFA at Vermont College of Fine Arts. abrams is a 2009-10 A.I.R. fellowship recipient. Her ongoing video-performance project, *Self-Help TV*, has been screened in New York, Philadelphia, Vermont, New Mexico, and Miami. This is her first solo show in New York.

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](http://www.airgallery.org). For more information please contact Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or [kgriefen@airgallery.org](mailto:kgriefen@airgallery.org).

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