

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 1995

K Webster
"Work"
Gallery 11
January 2-20, 1996

"...help make it so there is cause for her to know that she is more than this dress on the ironing board, helpless before the iron." - Tillie Olsen

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce "Work", an exhibition of sculpture by New York City artist K Webster. The show will open on Tuesday, January 2nd and will continue through Saturday, January 20th, 1996. Please join us at our reception for the artist on Saturday, January 6th, from 6-8PM. The gallery is located at 40 Wooster Street, 2nd floor (between Grand and Broome Streets) and is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11AM-6PM.

Many of K Webster's sculptures sit on small shelves at eye level to the viewer. The artist combines such objects as small rubber toys, tools, mirrors, rusty chains and stones to tell or imply stories that are alternately humorous and horrifying. Some of the materials are metallic paint, lead, tar, string and metal tacks.

A surprising juxtaposition of scale and context creates the narrative aspects of this work. In a piece called "For Anita" (an homage to Anita Hill), a small female figure aims a howling ball at a triangular bowling pin formation of tiny combat soldiers. The toys and other objects are evocative of childhood memories and popular culture from another time, but they are neither nostalgic nor sentimental. Another piece positions rows of tiny chickens on blue stairs facing a life-sized can of Campbell's chicken soup. The relationship and tension between the objects often refers to elements of real or imagined danger. "I use scale, ominous combinations and the stillness of sculpture to capture that moment of calm before a threat becomes an action," says the artist.

Webster's work is similar to Art Spiegelman's MAUS, in that it uses non-human representation of human activity to allow the viewer to look at that which he or she might otherwise turn away from.

K Webster graduated with a BA in painting from Bard College. She has lived and worked in New York City since 1975. She edited an issue of Heresies Magazine in 1982 and was Co-founder/Co-Director of Small Walls, a not-for-profit gallery. She worked for several years with The Fortune Society, an organization run by, and for, ex-prisoners. Being raised working class and Catholic, and many years of work as a tradeswoman, organizer and peer counselor have greatly informed the content and imagery of her work.

For further information, please contact: Alissa Schoenfeld, Director A.I.R. Gallery. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.