

A. I. R.

G A L L E R Y

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Press Release  
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An exhibition of photogravure etchings created by Bernice Ficek-Swenson will be held at the A. I. R. Gallery II from September 30 to October 18, 1997. The opening reception is scheduled from 4 to 6 pm, Saturday, October 4, 1997. A. I. R. Gallery is located at 40 Wooster St., 2nd floor, NYC. Gallery hours are from: Tuesday through Saturday: 11 am to 6 pm. The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public. For further information about this exhibition please call (212) 966-0799.

To be exhibited are a suite of black and white photogravure etchings titled, "Putting Out Ashes". The images are constructed still lifes composed of stones, fire, ashes and cremated bones. Fire is used as a drawing tool on a backdrop of ashes creating marks which recall a sense of the primal, the eternal. Stones which have been used in a spiritual context by prehistoric cultures have been a source of inspiration for Ms. Swenson's work.

The prints in the exhibition are created by a unique process which blends the techniques of photography and etching. The resulting images have the great sensitivity of a photograph and the velvety surface of an inked etching. Many of the plates for this exhibition have been produced at Renaissance Press, an atelier located in New Hampshire which specializes in photogravure.

Ms. Swenson who works and resides in Minneapolis, MN has exhibited nationally. Most recently her photogravures have been shown at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Earth, Water, Wind, Fire Exhibition, Minneapolis, MN and at Photo-Santa Fe, NM represented by Renaissance Press. Her work will be added to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Photography Collection, Minneapolis, MN in 1997. She is housed in many other collections including the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers, Brunswick, NJ and the Paine Weber & Assoc. Collection, Minneapolis, MN, as well as being published in the 1997 hard cover, "The Best of Printmaking, An International Collection", published by Rockport Publishers.

Following this exhibition, "Putting Out Ashes" photogravure suite will travel to the North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, North Dakota and to the Jon Oulman Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota.