

A. I. R.

G A L L E R Y

40 WOOSTER STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10013

TEL 212-966-0799

FAX 212-941-7508

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beatrice Riese Retrospective Exhibition

January 25th - February 12th, 2000

This important exhibition features the subtle and finely wrought abstractions of Beatrice Riese. Using symmetry, tonality, repetition, geometry, and a certain wry whimsy, the artist creates sophisticated paintings and drawings that highlight the vagaries and permutations of form. Relationships and movements divulge themselves in a revelatory manner, slowly, with profound yet delightful logic. One can see in her work the same concentration and focus on complex detail that appears in Celtic interlace designs or Near Eastern textiles, but Ms. Riese's imagery springs from her own elusive and entirely individual visual language.

Ms. Riese's life story is one of drama and dedication--her family fled German persecution in 1933 by moving to Paris where she began to study art. In 1940 they again fled, via Casablanca, this time to the United States where she worked as a textile designer in New York City and eventually studied art with Clyfford Still in Richmond, Virginia. She has also worked extensively with Will Barnet. But perhaps "dedication" is too dry a word to describe her relationship to her work--art has, more accurately, shaped her life. Her work has been, and still is, necessary for her existence.

Beatrice Riese's work hangs in such notable collections as the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard, the Montclair Art Museum, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Nelson-Atkins Museum, the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, the University of Kansas Spencer Museum, the University of Michigan Museum of Fine Art and the Virginia Museum of Art. Since 1990 she has been president of the the American Abstract Artists, a group dedicated to perpetuating the spirit and vitality of abstraction regardless of current trends.

This exhibition brings together three decades of Ms. Riese's work showing the evolution of her visual thought. Her art rewards the eye, stimulates the mind, and leaves the viewer richer for the experience--a felicitous way to mark our entry into the year 2000. A full color catalog with an essay by Lilly Wei is accompanying the exhibition, made possible by a grant from the Richard Florsheim Art Fund.

For further information contact Dena Muller, Director, A.I.R. Gallery.

Gallery Hours Tuesday - Saturday 11AM - 6PM

Opening reception Saturday, January 29, 3 - 6PM