

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

**SUSAN BEE: POST-AMERICANA
NEW PAINTINGS**

March 10-28, 1998

Reception: Saturday, March 14, 6-8 pm

Gallery Hours: Tues.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm

A.I.R. Gallery will host "Post-Americana," recent paintings by Susan Bee. These works revolve around appropriated figurative images as well as other found material. The collage and assemblage elements include: advertisements, children's stickers, decals, paper dolls, insects, snakes, postcards, and movie posters. The paintings involve narrative fragments in combination with multiple layers of paint. The mixed media, oil and enamel paintings juxtapose painterly, gestural marks, all-over drips, and floral motifs. Bee's paintings ironically explore popular culture representations of post-colonial icons, both through the depiction of "exotic" motifs such as Tikis and hula girls, and of symbols of the American revolution such as the eagle, the Liberty Bell, and Paul Revere. Her work also addresses issues of gender in her use of images of children, girls, and women.

Robert C. Morgan in *Review*, Feb. 1997, wrote that Bee's painting "represents a kind of *Beat Feminism* ... These paintings seem to be about a layering of traces, an embedding of a certain kind of history. They are like memory traces in which the self cannot separate itself from the effects of devolution wrought by popular (patriarchal culture) ... Her paintings offer ... a semiotics of play. In so doing, the offhand innocence of these strokes and drips enclosing popular imagery and appropriated from other sources makes us reflect on the condition of life as a series of signs that are perpetually enforcing their ideology upon us."

Bee has had solo shows of her artist's books and paintings at Granary Books Gallery in 1997 and Virginia Lust Gallery in NYC in 1992. She has been in numerous group shows. From 1986 to 1996, she was co-editor and designer of the art journal, *M/E/A/N/I/N/G*.

For further information, contact Alissa Schoenfeld, Director, A.I.R. Gallery.
PLEASE LIST/Visuals provided on request.