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For Immediate Release

Power and Presence: Theo Westenberger's Portraits of Extraordinary Women

January 6 – 31, 2010

Reception: Thursday, January 7th from 6pm to 8pm

BROOKLYN, NY December 2009 – A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce ***Power and Presence: Theo Westenberger's Portraits of Extraordinary Women***, an exhibition of 30 photographs. The exhibition will be on view from January 6th through January 31st 2009 in Gallery I. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, January 7th from 6pm- 8pm.



POWER and PRESENCE: Theo Westenberger's Portraits of Extraordinary Women showcases the trailblazer and feminist whose aesthetic and perspective resonated with both her subjects and audience.

The show includes remarkable portraits of Ayn Rand, Barbara Eden, Bernadette Peters, Debra Winger, Diane Keaton, Diane Lane, Diane Von Furstenberg, Dolly Parton, Elizabeth McGovern, Emma Thompson, the Golden Girls, Grace Jones, Helen Gurley Brown, Helena Bonham Carter, Jaime Lee Curtis and Janet Lee, Jennifer Aniston, Joan Rivers, Judy Collins, Lisa Bonet, Lily Tomlin, Liv Ullman, Mary McCarthy, Paulina Porizkova, Rita Moreno, Rosie Perez, Sigourney Weaver, Sinead O'Connor, Sissy Spacek, Susan Sarandon, and Whoopi Goldberg. They reflect beautifully the changing landscapes and possibilities for women in their times.

Theo Westenberger (1950-2008) became a very successful commercial photographer at a time when woman in the field were scarce. Theo was the first female photographer to shoot the covers of Newsweek and Sports Illustrated; and was a staff photographer for Life magazine.

In celebration of the exhibition, The **Theo Westenberger Award for Extraordinary Women** will be granted to two artists, **Kiki Smith** and **Glenda Wharton**.

Kiki Smith is an American artist classified as a feminist artist, a movement with beginnings in the twentieth century. Her Body Art is imbued with political significance, undermining the traditional erotic representations of women by male artists, and often exposes the inner biological systems of females as a metaphor for hidden social issues. Her work also often includes the theme of birth and regeneration, sustenance, and frequently has Catholic allusions. Smith has also been active in debate over controversies such as AIDS, gender, race, and battered women. Her work is included in major collections such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tate Gallery, Solomon Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, and the Los Angeles Museum of Art, among others.

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Glenda Wharton is a hand drawn animator and visual artist whose work has been presented at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, The Los Angeles Asian and Pacific Film Festival, The Australian International Film Festival, The Corcoran Museum in Washington, D.C., Wake Forest University's Women of Vision exhibit curated by the Greensboro Arts Council, and the Reynolda House, among others. Internationally she won first place at the Lagos, Nigeria International Arts Festival. She has won fellowships from The Winston-Salem Arts Council, The American Association of University Women, North Carolina A&T State University, and the Hanes Corporation. She teaches at Winston-Salem State University and holds MFA's from both Columbia University (in Fine Arts and Film) and USC (in Animation).

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. For more information please contact Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.