

# A. I. R.

G A L L E R Y

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## A COMPOSITE PORTRAIT: A.I.R. and the Women's Art Movement

A.I.R. Gallery's mission is to gain exposure for women artists. This mission has remained constant for more than twenty-four years, even as the individual artist-members and art world, cultural and political climates, have changed.

A portrait of A.I.R. may be sketched from a variety of angles. One view is of the artists who have maintained the organization through participation in studio visits, monthly meetings and committee work. Another view encompasses the exhibitions which have consistently represented the highest quality art work in a variety of styles, media and vision. A third view takes in the public lectures, ongoing programs, events and performances, which bring the community together around issues of feminism and art-making by women.

The current exhibition combines all of these views into a composite picture of A.I.R. using material from the gallery's archive. The resulting portrait also resembles that of the women's art movement, which shares many features and its history with the gallery.

*A Composite Portrait* is presented in anticipation of A.I.R. Gallery's 25th Anniversary in September, 1997. It is a look back at the creation of the institution, its purpose, and the different strategies used in fulfilling this purpose. It is also a celebration of the gallery's commitment to occupying the space created for women artists by the women's art movement and to reinforcing and expanding that space in the future.

For helping make this exhibition possible, special thanks are due to Phyllis Barr, archivist; Leah Krauss, Business Volunteers for the Arts; Carin Kuoni, The Swiss Institute; David Dean, Printed Matter; Ilse DeGraaff, New York Public Library Exhibitions Department; Ann Pachner; Michi Itami; Alexandra Carmel; George Papargyris; and all of the current and former A.I.R. artists who contributed material to the archives.