

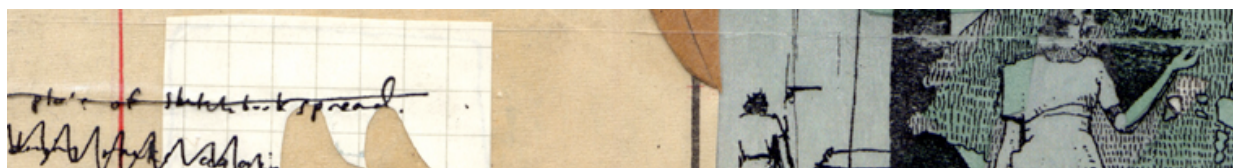


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**Lauren Simkin Berke, *Excavations and Adaptations***

September 9 – October 4, 2009

Reception: Thursday, September 10 from 6pm to 8pm



BROOKLYN, NY August 2009 - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Excavations and Adaptations*, an exhibition of new work by Alumnae Artist **Lauren Simkin Berke**. This is Berke's second solo show at A.I.R. The opening reception will be held **Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 8 pm**.

*Excavations and Adaptations* explores color and instinctive collage play with drawings that study how people document their lives. This grouping of more than sixty small works invites the viewer to engage with the art on a level of intimacy that reflects the reference material used: vintage photographs, personal photographs, and drawings from direct observation.

Berke has been collecting the collage materials used in these pieces for over a decade. They range from magazine pages to personal photographs, luggage tags to aging dress patterns. The linework is drawn in ink with a technical pen; the original drawings are no bigger than 3.5 in. x 5 in. The collages vary from simple swaths of color to complex abstract patterns.

These pieces engage with the past to play with universal themes of the industrial and post-industrial experience: finding friendship and joy in times of war, standing stiffly in front of monuments for vacation snapshots, taking required portraits on picture day at school, and even taking pictures of places one has fondness for, to remember, for evidence, or just for the beauty of the sight of the world.

Lauren Simkin Berke received an MFA in Illustration as Visual Essay from the School of Visual Arts, NY, and a BA in Anthropology from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Berke's Illustration clients include American Express, The New York Times, New York Magazine, the LA Times and The Boston Globe. Berke was a 2007-2008 A.I.R. Gallery Fellowship Artist, and has exhibited in group shows in the U.S. and abroad, including shows at P.P.O.W., A.I.R. and McCaig Wells Gallery in NY, and Gescheidle in Chicago. Berke's drawings were featured in SKETCHBOOKS: THE HIDDEN ART OF DESIGNERS, ILLUSTRATORS AND CREATIVES (Laurence King Publishing, UK).

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](http://www.airgallery.org). For more information please contact Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or [kgriefen@airgallery.org](mailto:kgriefen@airgallery.org).