



Liz Surbeck Biddle, *Encounters*

September 9 – October 4, 2009

Opening Reception:

Thursday, September 10th from 6pm to 8pm

BROOKLYN, NY, July 2009 - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Encounters*, an exhibition of new work by Liz Surbeck Biddle. The exhibition will be on view from September 9 through October 4, 2009. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, September 10th from 6pm to 8pm.



Encounters is made up of a series of drawings on Japanese rice paper, wall hung ceramic pieces and an ambitious large-scale installation. The installation, “Whereabouts,” - an outlandish accumulation of painted and found objects, hand made ceramic elements and expanded foam - hangs against a backdrop of images that are drawn and silk-screened directly on the gallery wall.

In “Whereabouts,” expanded foam has been shaped using found stencils and soft colors. Standing out from the unruly arrangement are an almost monumental bunny-like creature and a form, which resembles a large nesting bird. Nearby, a birdcage containing an exotic specimen of Biddle’s own design that rocks precariously on its springs. Several tiny ceramic volcanoes seem to spout fire and ash, enhancing the comical yet apocalyptic scene. Overall, the installation abounds in humor set off with a slightly sinister tone.

This exhibition consolidates Biddle’s interests and techniques, which include printmaking, painting, sculpture, and a new engagement with found objects. The artist writes: “I became interested in old cast offs as they have character, interesting weathering and often a linear quality that I find attractive.” Crushed and twisted metal, springs, gratings, and remnants from appliances found at a local dump are all included as source material. The skillful incorporation of innovative ceramics of an organic and primordial nature – a signature of Biddle’s work in recent years - also infuses her newest installation.

Liz Surbeck Biddle lives and works in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. She has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions in the United States and abroad and has received public commissions for the Art For Transit MTA Program at the Croton/Harmon RR station. Her work is included in many public and private collections including The American Craft Museum; Museum of Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland; De Stadhof Museum, Holland; IWCAT Association, Tokoname, Japan; Sandy Besser Collection and the Ruth Siegel Gallery.

A.I.R. – ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS SINCE 1972. A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111Front Street, #228, in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11am to 6pm. For directions please see www.airgallery.org. For additional information, please contact A.I.R. Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.