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*For Immediate Release*

**Francie Shaw, *The Woods*, April 29 – May 24, 2008**

Opening Reception, Thursday May 1, 6pm-8pm.

NEW YORK, NY, April 4, 2008 – A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce Gallery Artist Francie Shaw's solo exhibition, *The Woods*. The exhibition will be on view from April 29 – May 24 2008, with an opening reception on May 1 from 6pm to 8pm.

Grainhead, Woodman, Red Riding Hood, Pirate and others are at A.I.R. Gallery this May. "The Woods" is a set of prints, all from drawings and monoprints reworked digitally by the artist. The gestural figures reveal the hand of the artist, staying refreshingly loose. The flattened layers leave the viewer to interpret figure/ground, friend/foe. Each character is rendered with compassion and humor, an odd friend (or foe) threading her way through the forest. From Grimm's Tales to Paul McCarthy, we can recognize the broad scope of these figures.

Of her new work, Shaw writes: "I have been intimate with shadows and monsters all my life. My original monsters were powerful figures I saw everywhere- around my bed, in my curtains, on the walls, in the heat registers. I was reacquainted with the shadows at the death of my mother. She is the source of much of the imagery guiding me here. Most of the grain patterns that I use over and over are drawn from the floorboards in her house. The little figures are ones she played with in her grandmother's attic or are from string puppets that she gave to us. As a child I loved those inanimate objects that I could breathe life into and control, not the animated monsters that controlled me. My mother also saw imaginary things, but worked hard to dismiss the evildoers, keeping them undercover. She wanted castles and dogs and made them appear. She was a queen of the controlled imagination. I am appropriating her power. No castles, but this time I control the monsters, though as with her, they lurk undercover."

**May 23rd at 7pm there will be a poetry reading of "Fairy Tale Noir" poems.** The poets reading will be; Charles Bernstein, Lee Ann Brown, Miles Champion, Erica Hunt, Ann Lauterbach, Eileen Myles and Bob Perelman.

Francie Shaw lives in Philadelphia with her husband, the poet Bob Perelman, with whom she has done many collaborations, including *Playing Bodies* from Granary Books. This is her third solo show at A.I.R.

The works in this exhibition are all archival prints, executed at Silicon Gallery in Philadelphia in editions of six.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 511 West 25<sup>th</sup> St, NYC. Gallery hours are: Tues. – Sat. 11am to 6 pm. For more information please contact Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212.255.6651 or [kgriefen@airgallery.org](mailto:kgriefen@airgallery.org).

Image: Francie Shaw, *The Hunters*, 27x20, 2008

