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Jan Johnson

*I did not provide the cup*

November 2 – November 26, 2011

Reception: Thursday, November 3rd

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**BROOKLYN, NY November 2011** – A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce Jan Johnson's *I did not provide the cup*. This is Johnson's first solo exhibition with A.I.R. Gallery. She will be showing new works of varying mediums. These pieces will be on view from November 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 26, with an opening reception on Thursday, November 3rd from 6pm to 9:00pm.



Jan Johnson's work simultaneously embraces and rejects the image of the domestic. Growing up in the South, Jan shares a deep tradition of women's domestic activities—quilting, embroidery, samplers and quilling. She learned to “make do” with what one has at home, efficiently and effectively. Her interests lie in the appropriation and subversion of these handiwork techniques. These methods of homespun production were passed down from generation to generation; the crafting of cloths, handkerchiefs and quilled paper forms were gifted to Jan. She thus retains a certain notion of duty to what she has been provided.

Johnson uses forms and techniques that are at once familiar and foreign, a language laid down with thread, paint, pigment and cut paper. Jan's improvisational process allows utilitarian objects to develop in an abstract manner. Like quilts, her work sections off areas to house particular histories. Personal geographies, hand-drawn maps, diagrammatic structures, scientific imagery, embroidered samplers, handiwork and love tokens—she responds to all these items in constructing her compositions, both formally and narratively.

The density of stitches creates a flesh-like quality of the surface; the cloth is left with punctures and holes, pulled and cut threads from the underside, and pigment that has bled from the thread. Her pieces are containers for different levels of thought, comprehension and awareness that reside in the body—the brain, heart, soul, folds of the skin, hair, and genitals. The diagrammatic structures attempt to order her imagination, anxieties, and fears, and chart the trodden areas of love, beauty, desire and death.

Jan M. Johnson lives and works in Lowell, MA.

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, Julie Lohnes at 212-255-6651 or [jlohnese@airgallery.org](mailto:jlohnese@airgallery.org).