

A.I.R.

For immediate release

LOOSE

Daniela Kostova

March 17 - April 17, 2016

Opening Reception: March 17, 6-8pm

Artist Talk: March 17, 6:30pm

DUMBO's First Thursday Art Walk: April 7, 6-8pm

Special Event: April 8, 2016

Brooklyn, NY - February 2016

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce **LOOSE**, an exhibition of recent works by Fellowship artist Daniela Kostova. This large-scale installation consists of photographs and sculptural artifacts that climb over walls and sprawl across the floor thus activating the gallery space.

Kostova's ongoing project has been to examine the phenomenon of Adventure Playgrounds, which inspired her to build a "dangerous" playground inside her apartment where kids could play with ropes, sand, mud and fire. Addressing the numerous regulations of public space in the U.S., Kostova considered the private home setting the only "safe" place for free play. Translating concepts of this project for the gallery space, she creates a series of manipulated photo sculptures that are constricted by ropes and weights. The photos appear to be looking for ways to escape their physical limitations and the confines of the gallery, evoking a visceral and at times primal response.

LOOSE questions what is safe and what is not in our overprotective U.S. society by comparing American standards of childhood play to those of Kostova's Bulgarian upbringing. Conquering fear by indulging in free play in the physical world offers a therapeutic effect for a culture in which fear is a pervasive force.

Daniela Kostova was born in 1974 in Sofia, Bulgaria. She holds MFA degrees from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (NY) and the National Art Academy in Sofia. Her work has been exhibited at the Queens Museum (NY), Institute for Contemporary Art (Sofia), Kunsthalle Wien (Austria), Centre d'art Contemporain (Geneva), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Turin), Kunsthalle Fridericianum (Kassel) and others.

Kostova is a co-founder of the NY based Bulgarian Art Collaborative, director of the artist-run Radiator Gallery (NYC) and a board member of CEC ArtsLink. Her work has been supported by NYFA, the American Foundation for Bulgaria and the European Cultural Foundation. Daniela's work has been reviewed in *Brooklyn Rail*, *NY Times*, *Hyperallergic*, *Flash Art*.



Play Date, 2015, Inkjet print on archival paper, 28 x 40 inches

A.I.R.'s Fellowship Program is now in its 22nd year and it provides a twelve month intensive program for emerging and underrepresented women artists in the development of their careers. Fellows receive a solo exhibition at the gallery, workshops with professionals in the field, studio visits, mentorship with an A.I.R. artist and a life-long relationship with the A.I.R. community. To find out more about the program, please visit our website: www.airgallery.org



Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.

For all press inquiries, please contact; Jamie Sterns, Exhibitions Director.

The gallery is wheelchair accessible.

A.I.R. GALLERY | 155 Plymouth St. | Brooklyn, NY 11201 | airgallery.org | info@airgallery.org | (212) 255 6651 | Wed - Sun 12-6pm