

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carolyn Martin
FENCES

May 30 – June 24, 2006

In her current exhibition "Fences," Carolyn Martin challenges a familiar image of American domesticity. The exhibition is on view from May 30 through June 24 at A. I. R. Gallery, 511 West 25th Street in New York City. The artist's reception is on Thursday, June 1 from 6 to 8 pm.

In this exhibition Carolyn Martin explores the white picket fence as a personal image in a series of works on paper and, for the first time, in paintings as well. In contrast to her 2003 show of installations featuring actual wood picket fences, here she uses only charcoal, pigment, collage and acrylic, delineating in each work a few white pointed uprights joined by a crossbar and set in a pitch black field. Not only do these hard edged shapes recall familiar social and racial barriers but they also evoke more sinister, global associations -- watchtowers, bullets and missiles. Fluid organic forms, drawn and overdrawn in tones of blue, black and gray, soften and obliterate the harsh backgrounds. Speaking of these new drawings and painting Martin says, "My present work has more density and volume now because I feel more drawn to investigate the contradictions and dualities that I see in words, images and experiences."

Martin has exhibited solo in New York since 1989. She has also exhibited at the J.B. Speed Art Museum in Louisville, Kentucky; the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts in Racine, Wisconsin; the African American Museum in Dallas, Texas; and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, among others. Martin holds a B.F.A. from the University of Wisconsin, attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and earned an M.F.A. from Pratt Institute in New York. She has taught at the University of Pennsylvania and City College in New York City.

Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11 – 6. For further information, call (212) 255-6651 or visit www.airnyc.org