

A.I.R.

GALLERY

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tues. - sat., 11-6

JoAnne McFarland:

Seeing the Light

April 3 – April 28, 2007

Opening Reception

Thursday, April 5, 6pm - 8pm



NEW YORK, NY, MARCH 2007 — SEEING THE LIGHT, JoAnne McFarland's exhibition of dolls and doors, will be on view at A.I.R. Gallery from April 3 – April 28, 2007. The opening reception will be held April 5, from 6–8 PM.

In SEEING THE LIGHT McFarland continues her exploration of the dress as spiritual container, expanding that vision to include sunlight-infused stoops leading to imagined interiors. Within these erotically-charged settings figures seem otherworldly, hovering between angel and shaman. In particular, an antique doll, prominently featured in several paintings, starkly black with scarlet lips, appears alternately to be master of her destiny or abandoned to her fate.

In *Untended*, (the sole painting to offer a direct gaze) the subject's hands and face are joined at the heart of the painting amidst folds of elaborate material. This work speaks to the idea of the psychological independence that can lie beneath sexual or societal conventions. What at first appears to be a portrait becomes, through the quirky positioning of the figure and her magnetic gaze and blended ancestries, a statement on transcending expectations.

The primarily large scale paintings in SEEING THE LIGHT are a departure from McFarland's earlier work on paper. Through the medium of oil paint the theme of emotive radiance takes on new focus; the dress — as a kind of psychic portal — reaches its full fruition here.

A.I.R. Gallery was founded in 1972 as the first artist-run, not-for-profit gallery for women artists in the United States. This exhibition is part of the year-long calendar of events coinciding with **TheFeministArtProject**, of which A.I.R. Gallery is a Founding Partner. The purpose of **TheFeministArtProject** is to bring public attention to women artists' significant impact on contemporary art practice, highlight their international influence, and guarantee their inclusion in the cultural record, past, present, and future.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 511 West 25th Street, NYC. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11am-6pm. For information please contact the director, Kat Griefen at 212.255.6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.