



Claire Owen, *from under a darkened sky*

December 3th January 4th 2009

Reception December 4th 6 – 8 pm

BROOKLYN, NY, October, 2008 - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce, *from under a darkened sky*, the solo exhibition of A.I.R. National Artist, **Claire Owen**. The exhibition will be on view from December 4, 2008 – January 4, 2009 with an opening reception held on December 4 from 6pm to 8pm.



In *from under a darkened sky*, six of Claire Owen new paintings are a continuation of her narrative works that explore the relationship between human and animal. As the exhibition title indicates, the waning light in each work suggests the possibility of a fearful ending to the tale.

Present in each work is a girl child engaged in a furtive dialogue with a creature. The mood suggests a breach has occurred between the supposed safety ensured by the separation between man and beast. But, as the child is not depicted as a wide-eyed innocent nor the animal as a sweet faced creature they are on equal footing in this drama.

In addition to the series, there are three, individually titled paintings from a new series of “portraits” in which Owen paints specific characters identified by their relationships or trades. *The Bee Keeper’s Son*, *The Falconer’s Wife*, and *The Puppeteer’s Apprentice* explore the possibility of the narrative embodied in a single character.

Owen’s use of bright, unmixed color and slightly skewed scale is draw from early book illustration, especially fifteenth century books of hours. Her work has also been influenced by the writings of Angela Carter, Ron Hansen and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Claire Owen is founder of Turtle Island Press, a private press specializing in the production of visual artist’s books. Her work is represented in many public collections including: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, The Library of Congress, Harvard University, and Princeton University. She has been awarded travel grants to the People’s Republic of China and Wales, UK. She currently teaches at Drexel University and at Philadelphia University. Owen is originally from Rochester New York, where she received her BFA and MFA from Rochester Institute of Technology. www.claireowenturtleislandpress.com

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 see www.airgallery.org. For more information please contact Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.