

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jinnine Pak
Portraits of Women

November 8 – December 3, 2005
Opening reception: Thursday, November 10, 6-8pm

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by artist Jinnine Pak, November 8 – December 3, 2005, with a public reception for the artist Thursday, November 10, from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The solo exhibition, entitled *Portraits of Women*, is the main component of the artist's 2005-2006 Fellowship at A.I.R.

The photographs included in this exhibition are twenty images from a series of Pak's portraits of forty different women. The work documents Pak's project to photograph women who responded to an internet posting for participants "of all ages, sizes, ethnicities, and physical types". Photographed in their own bedrooms and homes, mostly in lingerie and sometimes nude, the women are strangers to the artist who become familiar, and even intimate, to viewers through Pak's lens. Pak uses ambient light to create soft, glowing images as well as a soft focus at times. The series is compelling through its subtle range of subjects. Each portrait reveals, through facial expression and pose, through surroundings and lighting, a varied humanity. Even as there is a sameness and evenness in their presentation, each photograph becomes a glimpse into the truer nature of its subject.

Pak explains, "My camera was a passport to enter places I might never have otherwise. Obsession, desire, possession, admiration, and idolization are what compels me to photograph them. Photography is a means for me to connect with women. It is a shared reality to manifest a new reality They are depictions of how I wanted the women to look- with a sentimental mood and intimacy, both diffident and confident, introverted and extroverted, with an open and closed door. But they are also depictions of how the women wanted to appear. The process was an immersion into a woman's life and a collaborative effort to make it our own. Her disposition, space, objects, clothing, makeup, and colors were used to create a milieu of sexuality, wonder, hope, dreams, nostalgia, loneliness, independence, resignation, intent, anxiety, and peace. The women are sharing a secret: I want them to be cherished, and then let go."

Jinnine Pak has a B.F.A. from Tufts University in affiliation with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Since her graduation, her work has been selected for several juried exhibitions and included in group shows. This is her first solo show.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm. For further information, please contact 212. 255. 6651 or visit www.airnyc.org.