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BARBARA SIEGEL, *ROCK STARS*

May 27-June 21, 2009

Opening: Thursday, May 28 from 6-8 pm

BROOKLYN, NY, APRIL, 2009- A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce ***ROCK STARS***, a solo exhibition by Gallery Artist, **Barbara Siegel**. The exhibit will be on view from May 27th to June 21, 2009 with an opening reception held on Thursday, May 28 from 6 to 8pm. *ROCK STARS* is Siegel's second solo show at A.I.R. Gallery. Continuing her biographical explorations of the lives of unusual individuals, this time Siegel's muse is polymath mineralogist extraordinaire, Clifford Frondel (1907-2002).

“Siegel blends documentary and art, conjuring in a manner that both educates and engages.”
(Carl Little, *Art in America*)

In her mixed media installations Siegel unearths the scientific world of Frondel's richly complex mineralogical practice, while also exploring the powerful impact of rocks and minerals on poets, song-writers and the leagues of ordinary folk whose rock collections take pride of place on desks and window sills. A connoisseur of all sorts of unusual collections and the fascinating and timeless museums that house them, Siegel's current installations such as “*Whose Boulder?*” and “*Wonder Cabinet*” incorporate old display tables and cabinets to evoke such venues. Siegel's research for *ROCK STARS* has taken her from the American Museum of Natural History to Harvard's Mineralogical Museum and New Jersey's Franklin Mine Museum. But “*Forty-Eight*” a centerpiece of the exhibition, is a very personal, unscientific idiosyncratic collection of 48 drawings of significant rocks borrowed by Siegel from friends and colleagues. Although here the imagery is more personal than scientific, the title, “*Forty-Eight*,” and configuration of 48 rock “portraits” hanging behind a small antique school desk, refer to the exact number of new mineral species Clifford Frondel named over the course of his long career.

Barbara Siegel lives and works in New York City. In addition to mixed media installations, she is a book artist. She has had solo shows at Columbia University, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, Hartnett Murray Gallery, Parsons School of Design, Lehman College, The Gallery of South Orange Nina Freudenheim Gallery, Manhattanville College, and the University of Bridgeport. Her work is in numerous public and private collections including Albright Knox Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Art, Brown University Library, Rutgers University Library, Yale University Library, and University of Chicago Library. She graduated from the University of Chicago and teaches in the School of Design Strategies at Parsons the New School of Design.

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.

