

# A.I.R.

For immediate release

## ***No one belongs here more than you***

Alexandria Smith

June 3 - 27, 2015

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 4, 6 - 8pm

Artist Talk: Thursday June 4th at 6:30pm

Brooklyn, NY - May 2015

A.I.R. Gallery presents *No one belongs here more than you*, an installation of new work by Alexandria Smith, a New York-based mixed-media artist and educator. The exhibition will be on view in the Fellowship Gallery from June 3 - 27, 2015, with an opening reception on Thursday, June 4th from 6-8pm.

*No one belongs here more than you* captures a fluxus moment in the narrative of SHE, a fictitious character of the artist's creation. In this scene, SHE is stuck between two worlds, reality and the sublime as she tries to find her place in a world of hope and despair. The dichotomies explored in this installation are evocative of the current state of society; a moment in which love and hope are waging war against hate and injustice.



Alexandria Smith, *The Rooting Place* (detail), 2015, Site-specific installation, Dimensions variable

The title of this exhibition is borrowed from a collection of short stories of the same title by Miranda July. Like its namesake, this exhibition intends to elicit empathy as SHE embarks on a quest to be loved and accepted.

The installation is comprised of sculptures interspersed throughout the floor, walls oozing with blackness and stripes simultaneously evoking interior and exterior spaces. An image of SHE, a hybrid figure of plant and human origin, is projected onto a mixed-media relief collage captured in a meditative moment of either pre or post-birth.

Interweaving memory, myth, history and personal narrative, *No one belongs here more than you*, brings up complicated notions of identity, gender, sexuality and the psychology of self-discovery while remaining contemporarily relevant but without the didactic askance.

**Alexandria Smith** is a Brooklyn-based artist born in the Bronx, NY and raised in New Rochelle, NY. She received her BFA in Illustration from Syracuse University, her MA in Art Education from New York University and her MFA in Painting and Drawing from Parsons, The New School for Design. Alexandria is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies including the Fine Arts Work Center Fellowship, Golden Foundation Residency, Vermont Studio Center Residency and Rush Arts Summer Residency. Alexandria was recently awarded the Fountainhead Residency, Fine Arts Work Center Fellowship and A.I.R. Gallery Fellowship for 2014/15. Her work has been widely collected locally and internationally and exhibited in various group and solo exhibitions. Her recent exhibitions include a solo exhibition at Scaramouche Gallery and group exhibitions at The Schomburg Center and Thierry Goldberg Gallery. Her recent press includes the *Huffington Post*: "Alexandria Smith's Adorably Grotesque Cartoons Show What Little Girls Are Made Of", "Black Artists: 30 Contemporary Artmakers You Should Know Under 40" and "10 Female Artists To Watch in 2013." Alexandria currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.



**For all press inquiries, please contact;** Jenn Dierdorf, Director of Fellowship & Development.

The gallery is wheelchair accessible.