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For Immediate Release

Ari Tabei, *Dress for Today*, December 3, 2008 – January 4, 2009

BROOKLYN, NY, October, 2008 - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce, the first solo exhibition, *dress for Today* by 2007-2008 A.I.R. Fellowship Artist **Ari Tabei**. The exhibition will be on view from December 3, 2008 through January 2, 2009. The opening reception will be held on December 4 from 6pm to 8pm. **Live performances of *Dress for Today* #6** will be held on Saturday, December 6, from 3-6pm, Saturday, December 13, 3-6pm and Saturday, December 20, from 3-6pm.

Ari Tabei's installations and performance based work is made up of garments and bags that resemble cocoons or nests, offering both home and healing in an ever-changing world. The ritualistic play in the *Dress for Today* series reference and renew the artist's childhood experiences in Japan. By utilizing a variety of materials – flour, fabric scraps, plastic bags and paper products - Tabei pulls distinct meanings from her materials and exposes a different aspect of humane struggles in each work.

The artist writes of her work: "In my garment series, *Dress for Today* #1 arises from my fantasy of existing like an egg, surrendering to a sense of once being a self-contained cast-off, and longing for way to fit myself into that condition again. As I kept tying scraps of fabric for *Dress for Today* #2, I wished for a nest to shelter myself from the cruelty of nature. Each bundle of flour clinging to *Dress for Today* #3 indicates a burden of life. I try to release these burdens by shaking off flour, cleansing and purifying myself. I examined the process of nesting in *Dress for Today* #4, as I twisted and tied paper to make my cocoon."



As in her previous work, installation, videos and live performance are all significant elements of *Dress for Today* #6. The nature of the movement and gestures associated with this garment are partially dictated by the unique ritualistic play that the material of the garment demands. Her performance symbolizes our struggle with the discipline of existence and emphasizes her belief that playfulness is an essential tool for survival today. The artist packages her own body to disconnect herself from reality, but also to tie herself more closely to it.

Ari Tabei was born in Tokyo, Japan. She received a BA from Sophia University in International Legal Studies in 1997. She attended the Post-Baccalaureate Program in Studio Art at Brandies University in 2001 and received her MFA from the University of Connecticut in sculpture, video and performance art in May 2007.

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.

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