



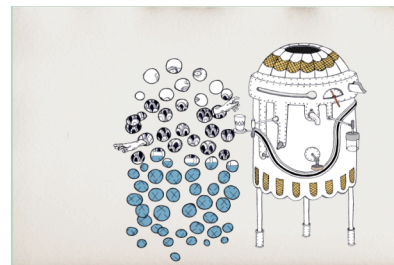
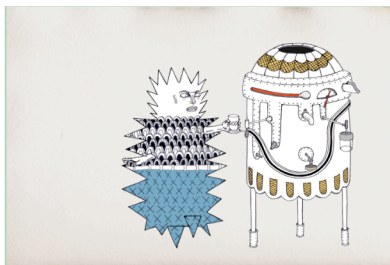
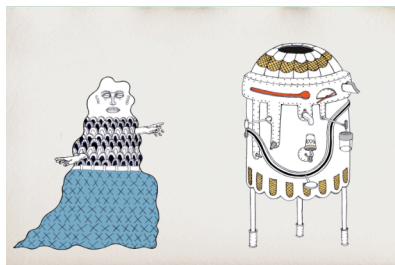
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For Immediate Release

Elena Wen, *Negotiating Space – A Series of Animated Shorts*

April 1 – 26, 2009

Reception: Thursday, April 2 from 6pm to 8pm



BROOKLYN, NY March 2009 - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Negotiating Space – A Series of Animated Shorts* an exhibition of new work by 2008-2009 A.I.R. Gallery Fellowship Artist, **Elena Wen**. This is Wen's first solo exhibition in New York City. The opening reception will be held on **Thursday, April 2nd from 6pm to 8pm**.

Negotiating Space is a collection of animated shorts that the artist describes as “illustrations of the mundane with a twist.” Narrative is the driving force in Wen's suggestive and playful worlds. While her hand-drawn animations run under one minute, they each tell a story. The artist explores everything from isolation in a bustling city, to a familiar argument between a couple to the inevitability and unpredictability of death. Wen's picture of the human experience has a unique cast of characters, but depicts underlying feelings any viewer can relate too.

Drop Dead explores mortality from various religious and secular perspectives. Wen's various figures stroll through a neighborhood and park before they suddenly begin to drop dead, one by one. At the moment of one woman's collapse, she transforms into a donut and is then quickly re-incarnated into a cow. Another individual collapses and is promptly shredded to paper bits by an industrial strength, government endorsed machine. While some of the themes are heavy, Wen's disarming humor is also playful; she strongly believes that if something isn't fun it is not worth doing.

Elena Wen was born in Taiwan and grew up in Costa Rica. In 1999 she moved to New York to study illustration at the School of Visual Arts and went on to receive her MFA in Design and Technology from Parsons School of Design. Her limited edition illustrated books are in the collections of SFMOMA, Stanford University, Getty Research Institute and University of Connecticut among others. In 2008 Ms. Wen was nominated as one of the top 20 NVA (New Visual Artists Under 30) by Print Magazine and her work has been featured in *Stash*, *Smile Faucet*, the Chelsea Art Museum, Wholphin Online and the LA Shorts Fest.

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

The A.I.R. Fellowship Program is made possible by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, a state agency, the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) through a re-grant from Brooklyn Arts Council, as well as generous support from Louise McCagg, The Bernheim Foundation, The Gifford Foundation, The Timken Foundation, Elizabeth A. Sackler, and The Milton and Sally Avery Foundation.

