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Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat 11-6 PM

## MARCIA HILLIS

"EFFSP"  
APRIL 20-MAY 8, 1999

Marcia Hillis will be exhibiting her recent paintings at A.L.R. Gallery II located at 40 Wooster Street April 20- May 8, 1999. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 PM to 6 PM. There will be a reception for the artist on Tuesday, April 20 from 6 to 8 PM. This will be the artist's first solo exhibition.

Ms. Hillis' new series of works were begun late in 1997 after extensive travel throughout Scotland. When the artist returned to her industrial neighborhood in Brooklyn she set out to hold onto some connection with nature. Not content with literal representation, Ms. Hillis discovered her own method to evoke a sense of place. Using handwriting as her means, she began developing a process of rhythm, layering, replication, and evolution that echoed processes found in nature. By stripping letters from their context and meaning, a new language emerged, an encoded evocation of place.

The horizontal plays a predominant role in compositions, as does the diptych. Together the two panels of horizontal rhythms in dialogue with one another appear as pages of an open book, the text to be deciphered by implication. Specificity is limited; sometimes recognizable images accompany the letter forms, but there is never any conclusive narrative.

Most of the oil on linen paintings in this show have been inspired by the artist's neighborhood park, the Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. Ms. Hillis has been actively involved in her community for over a year to protect this park from commercial development. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is considering handing over Brooklyn's only state park to a private developer, who would pave over it to use it as a "front lawn" for a proposed shopping mall.

Ms. Hillis has exhibited widely throughout New York including: Hallwalls, Thread Waxing Space, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Bronx Museum of the Arts, and PS 122. Her works have been included in publications including: *Time Capsule: A Concise Encyclopedia of Women Artists*, *Promotional Copy*, and *Crossings*. She currently teaches at St. Ann's School in Brooklyn.

