

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CARPET PAGES **by Beatrice Riese**

Dates: February 13 – March 2, 1996
Opening: Saturday, February 17, 1996 – 6:00 p.m.
Gallery: A.I.R. Gallery, 40 Wooster Street, 2nd Floor
Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Neatly and precisely, using only a hard pencil and a ruler, and an occasional vermilion accent, Beatrice Riese makes dense abstract drawings. The show is called **Carpet Pages**; the title alludes to the end papers, or carpet pages, of 8th and 9th century Irish manuscripts. These were full page abstract designs opposite the Evangelist portrait that began each of the four gospels in illuminated medieval Irish New Testaments.

The **Carpet Pages**, as were the Irish end papers, are inspired by Northern European stone carvings and metal work, Near Eastern textiles, Islamic calligraphy, and early illuminated texts.

Ms. Riese's drawings result from the repetitions of four or five elements on a grid format. The lines are mechanical looking in character, but are all hand rendered. The density of the linear patterns create areas of light and dark. Networks fuse but are separate, recalling chain mail, tatting, Celtic interlacing, or meditative objects.

Ms. Riese is represented in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum, the New Jersey State Museum, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Mint Museum of Art, the Montclair Museum, and others. She is President of the American Abstract Artists.

Sylvia Netzer, curator of this exhibition, is a sculptor, critic, and Chairperson of the Art Department of the City College of New York.

Carpet Pages will travel to the Snite Museum of the University of Notre Dame and be on view from June 9 to August 19, 1996.

For Further Information Contact:

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