

A.I.R.
GALLERY
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tues-sat, 11-6

For Immediate Release

The Water Carriers May 31 – June 25, 2005

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce a collaborative installation about gender, water and sustainable development, created by the Marymount School community, and students at the Tunza 2004 UN Children's International Conference on the Environment in conjunction with the Earth Child Institute. The exhibition is curated by visual artist and educator, Jennifer Croson.

The exhibition features three different visual arts projects about water. In the installation *Watershed Of Promise*, students of all ages created an artwork on a small cardboard "pillow box," using a fresh water theme. Each participant then filled the box with one or more written reflections on water and pledges to preserve this precious resource. All 500+ are assembled together on the floor, forming a "current of life"-a pledge to take action and help to conserve water. This installation was displayed on the floor outside of the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium at the UN during the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12). Also included in the exhibition are several saris made by students to represent the method of using fabric to filter cholera from drinking water. The students also created "Temenos Books", made for the *Ark of Hope*, designed by artist Sally Linder to hold the "Earth Charter", a people's treaty to help build a just, sustainable world in the 21st century. Together these projects create a deeply content driven exhibition. Ms. Croson explains its profound value to her students: "Throughout their projects from conception to realization, the students felt the weight of responsibility - working hard with integrity, to create meaningful works related to women and 'water stress.' This experience solidified a goal to use the language of art to address issues of social justice and accountability and to provide my students with opportunities to participate in a larger forum."

Concurrent with the exhibition, A.I.R. is pleased to announce a series of related public events:

Friday, June 3, 6:30-8pm: *The Water Carriers Opening Reception and Panel Discussion on Water and Gender.* Panelists include: Moderator, **Joakim Harlin**, Water Resources Specialist, Energy and Environment Group, UN Development Programme; **Marcia Brewster**, Interagency Gender and Water Task Force, UN; **Cayetana Carrion**, Coordinator for Sustainable Development, WEDO; **Eirah Gorre-Dale**, Special Representative of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council to the United Nations; **Petal Samuel**, student representative, Marymount School.

Friday, June 10, 6pm: *Screening of Swaraaj: The Little Republic.* In a film by **Anwar Jamal**, four women in rural Rajasthan dig deep enough to find water and start on the quest of persuading government authorities to lay pipes and taps.

Wednesday, June 15, 6:30-8:30pm: *First Benefit Celebration for Andolan-Organizing South Asian Workers.* Founded in 1998 by low-wage South Asian women workers to support each other and organize against exploitative work conditions. (Suggested donation \$50/\$25.)

Thursday, June 23, 6:30 - 8pm: *Pristine.* A poetry and video event from the Upper Delaware River Arts Community.

A Watershed of Promise Workshop (call for schedule and details). Children of all ages discuss concerns about water, create an artwork on a small box and fill it with a written reflection using a fresh water theme.

Coordinated by Daria Dorosh, all events are open to the public w/suggested donation. For full info go to airnyc.org or contact Gallery Director, Dena Muller. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday 11 – 6.