

A.I.R.

For immediate release

Cooperative Consciousness

A.I.R. artists at Kochi

Curator, Kathryn Myers and Co-Curator, Jayanthi Moorthy

December 12, 2016 - March 29, 2017

Panel Discussion: December 14, 3-5pm

Cooperative Consciousness introduces the work of sixteen artists from A.I.R. Gallery in New York, the pioneering and longest running cooperative feminist gallery in the United States. Launched in 1972 and located in SoHo, A.I.R. (Artists in Residence, Inc.) is presently located in Dumbo, Brooklyn. For over four decades, A.I.R. has provided a crucial professional exhibition platform, mentorship, and networking opportunities for women artists. A.I.R. artists appreciate the value of community and fellowship in an increasingly market-driven art scene that often fosters competitiveness and isolation.

The multi-generation group of women included in the exhibition *Cooperative Consciousness* typify A.I.R. artists as having exceptionally diverse creative practices. Their work offers a wealth of inquiry and insights into mutable and shifting senses of identity that might be defined by gender, race, ethnicity, generation or geography. Through diverse experimental approaches and use of materials, several themes emerge that create connecting currents among works of art in this exhibition.

Louise McCagg, Nancy Morrow, Jayanthi Moorthy, Alisa Henriquez, Shannon Forrester, Julia Kim Smith and Jody Joldersma, evoke unique and universal, unfixed, fluid, and shifting senses of personal, social or cultural identity. A fragmentation of the internal space and boundaries of their images often amplifies the potent and poetic issues and experiences they respond to and address. An uncanny mash-up of materials sourced from the trash through the internet propel new forms and meaning in the works of Daria Dorosh, Yvette Dubinsky, Jane Gilmore, d'Ann de Simone, and Melissa Furness. Reclaimed, recycled and recombined materials and images are often catalysts for investigations of collective history, travel and culture as well as feminine and gender identity. Traversing permeable boundaries between abstraction and representation, Jane Swavely, Joan Snitzer, Maxine Henryson, Mimi Oritsky and Shannon Forrester provoke cerebral and formal dialogues with art history, culture, space and sensation. Through the interplay of optics and perception, they attempt to visualize often imperceptible forms, feelings and forces through both the tactile presence and elusive subtlety of material and form.

This exhibition in Kochi introduces A.I.R.'s creative practices, ideals, inspiration and the commitment of member artists who hope to create a dialogue with women artists in India on issues of art and feminism as well as the opportunities and challenges of starting and maintaining a cooperative gallery.



For all press inquiries, please contact; Roxana Fabius, Executive Director.