For immediate release

**Only Connect**
Alison Owen

April 20 - May 21, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, April 21, 6-8 pm
Artist Talk: Friday, April 21, 7pm
DUMBO’s First Thursday Art Walk: Thursday, May 4, 6-8pm

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to present *Only Connect*, a communal art experiment led by Fellowship Artist Alison Owen.

Owen’s artwork is created with remnants and studio ephemera from other people’s art practices. Her practice is a form of conversation— a call and response between herself and the person who has contributed the materials.

Following on previous projects, *Only Connect* is an expanded version of this type of exchange and includes the voices of A.I.R. Gallery NYC artists, National members, and current and former Fellows. Each day in the month of April Owen will provide the community of artists with a prompt. The participating artists will complete a work of art, in response to that prompt. Simultaneously, the Fellowship Gallery will become an evolving archive, changing over the course of the month as Owen gathers and organizes the created artwork and ephemera. Owen is not only interested in the finished artwork, but also the materials and conditions of its creation. She highlights the periphery of studio practice, using the paint rags, paper scraps, to-do lists, and source materials of other artist’s processes as elements in her installations.

At the end of each day, Owen will go through the submitted work, selecting pieces that present similarities, overlaps, and connections. These works will be exhibited in the gallery in different forms –there will be photos, slides, written descriptions, email excerpts, and artworks. Owen will add to the installation over the course of the month-long exhibition, responding to submissions.

As part of the artist’s desire to spark multiple dialogues, visitors to the gallery will be invited to rummage through images and objects and make their own connections. In addition to the physical works and ephemera in the gallery, images will be published on a website that updates daily, a further exploration of connections among participants’ work. A book listing the daily prompts and selections will be available at the end of the show –its own archive of the project.

Alison Owen received her MFA from Claremont Graduate University. She has participated in numerous residencies, including Artists Alliance in the Lower East Side, Wave Hill in the Bronx, LMCC Process Space on Governors Island, The Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, the Bronx Museum of Art, foundation id11 in Delft, the Netherlands, and The Hambidge Center for Art and Science in Georgia. The Rhode Island State Council for the Arts awarded Owen the New Genres fellowship in 2010, and she was a finalist for the MacColl Johnson fellowship in 2011. She has recently shown at Cuchifritos Gallery and Lesley Heller in NY, Smack Mellon and Projekt722 in Brooklyn, and Bethel University in Minneapolis. She also creates site-specific installations in domestic environments, under the title House Work. She is currently a studio resident at LMCC Process Space, and is a fellow in the A.I.R. Gallery Fellowship Program.

For more on the artist, visit www.alisonowen.com.

Now in its 24th year, A.I.R.’s Fellowship Program provides a year-long career development intensive for emerging and underrepresented women artists. Each year, six artists join the gallery as honorary members. The program includes a solo show, a community-based project, workshops with professionals in the field, studio visits, and life-long support and collaboration with the A.I.R. Community. To find out more about the program, please visit www.airgallery.org.

For all press inquiries, please contact; Roxana Fabius, Executive Director.
The gallery is wheelchair accessible.