Making the Leap: Crossing Borders
Curated by Renee Riccardo
December 1, 2010 – January 2, 2011
Reception: Thursday, December 2nd from 6pm to 8:30pm

BROOKLYN, NY December 2010 – A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce Making the Leap: Crossing Borders, a group exhibition of Asian-American women artists curated by Renee Riccardo, and organized by 2009-2010 Fellowship Artists Jee Hwang and Kira Greene. The opening reception will be held Thursday, December 2nd from 6pm – 8:30pm.

Making the Leap: Crossing Borders features the work of 14 Asian-American immigrant artists, which, with diverse perspectives and methods, confronts issues of identity, separation from the familiar, and deviation from conservative social structures and traditional gender roles.

The artists in Making the Leap: Crossing Borders confront new situations by challenging preconceived notions of reality. Haejae Lee’s fantastical paintings meld the harsh political propaganda of North Korea with the Western pop culture. The work of Ajean Ryan investigates Western fairy tales by re-narrating and rewriting the stories that she tells her own bi-racial daughter. Deniz Tirpanci’s collage Dinner Party depicts a sense of chaos, displacement and discomfort even in simple multicultural experiences.

Notions of adaptation and assimilation are addressed in three arresting photographic and video pieces. Arin Yoon documents the everyday lives of Korean-American women in Northern New Jersey, and Naoko Wowsugi examines language problems and stereotypes many Asian immigrants face in her humorous and compelling video Frank. Kyoung Eun Kang creates a beautiful metaphorical struggle of adaptation, as she contrasts stones sent from her Korean mother with New York City Streets. And the sculptural work of Saeri Kiritani entitled 100 lbs of Rice addresses the shocking dietary changes immigrants face.

Traditional art forms and modern realities collide as the artists reconcile temporal, cultural, and technological differences. Sinying Ho blends customary porcelain vases and Pop Culture imagery using computer decal transfer techniques. Suyeon Na photographs herself in the public sphere of New York City dressed in native clothing traditionally intended to hide Asian women. In Chao-Ying Lin and Yen-Ting Chung’s breathtaking video titled Nest, traditional ink drawing collides and interacts with computer animations.

Four artists specifically address physical and gendered identity. Jeesoo Shin documents herself as a character in the Asian subculture cosplay undergoing dramatic identity changes that subvert traditional expectations of Asian women. Yi-Hsin Tseng pours paint over her shaved head in her video The Last Painting, to challenge her own personal physical boundaries as well as those that Asian women experience globally. Gyung Jin Shin also uses her body as a medium that defies a fixed identity: in her performance video Smiley Suicide Shin exists as a field where opposite values, meanings, and emotions meet. Yijun Liao photographs and exhibits the taboo – her relationship with a young immigrant – and questions norms of sex, power, gender, race, and age. Making the Leap: Crossing Borders frames a dynamic dialogue and expresses a plural vision of the contemporary Asian-American female experience.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228 in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wed. – Sun., 11am to 6pm. For directions please visit www.airgallery.org. For more information please contact Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.