

A.I.R.

GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LUISA SARTORI *ITINERA*

December 5, 2002-January 4, 2003

Opening reception: Thursday, December 5, 6-8 pm

AIR Gallery is pleased to present *Itinera*, an exhibition of new work by Luisa Sartori. This is Sartori's first solo exhibition in New York.

Included in *Itinera* are a series of large gridded panel paintings and some smaller sequential works, all of which reveal Sartori's focus on the transitional space between the physical and the immaterial. Using fluid, calligraphic lines which move freely across empty space, like traces left in a simplified landscape, Sartori distills nature into essential abstraction. Transformed as well are the writing systems and traditional decorative elements which find their origins in the organic world - the world Sartori stakes claim to with one foot, while tying it to an imagined reality with the other.

Also bridging these two worlds are the works' strong suggestions of mappings - maps being at once the real representation of place, and abstract information. The shows three major paintings bear the names given by 17th century astronomers to the moon's geographic features: *Mare Nectaris*, *Mare Spumans*, *Locus Somniorum*.

There is an undeniable beauty in Sartori's works, which have the sensuous, worn looking surfaces of ancient, Italian frescoed walls. On these "walls" or in these "landscapes" a multiplicity of lifelines are drawn - as language, as nature, as arterial passages - and are as real and imagined as the man in the moon.

In an accompanying essay, Sarah M. Lowe writes: 'Sartori gives us the visible energy, the energized line that denotes life and soul, and yet she obscures full knowledge of the pattern. The voyage is ongoing, but the meaning is mysterious'.

For further information, please contact the gallery at 212 655 6651