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For Immediate Release

Whorl Sylvia Netzer

September 6 - 30, 2012

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 6th, 6pm – 9pm



A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to present *Whorl*, an exhibition of new work by Sylvia Netzer on view from September 6 - 30, 2012. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, September 6th from 6 - 9pm.

WHORL: a figure produced by rotational motion around an axis, or by whirling or twirling; also, one of the patterns that constitute our fingerprints.

Netzer's handmade, medium sized ceramic sculptures are active, energetic, abstract forms, which allude to ganglia and their synaptic leaps through lunging, thrusting, stretching movements. They have skins of saturated color and exist somewhere in the space between abstraction and the figural. Their languid, undulating coils reference tentacles or limbs, which deliberate their next action.

Sylvia Netzer has explored, pushed, pulled or cast clay to manifest her sculpture concepts. Here she is playfully working with the very basic techniques of coil and pinch pot to create lively objects which imply vitality, gesture, and eccentric balance. In the past Netzer has made large installations that refer to a plausible biology that exists in a universe of her own devising. This series of pieces, like her past larger installations, are comments on the possibilities of organic form.

Sylvia Netzer received an M.F.A. in sculpture from Columbia University School of the Arts, and is currently the head of the ceramics program at the City College of New York. In addition to writing numerous pieces on glass and ceramic works, Netzer's work has been included in multiple publications, such as *In Three Dimensions: Women Sculptors of the '90s* by Charlotte Streifer-Rubenstein, *Ceramics: Mastering the Craft* by Richard Zakin, *Encaustic Painting: Contemporary Expressions in the Ancient Medium of Pigmented Wax* by Joanne Mattera, *Confrontational Ceramics: The Artist as Social Critic* by Judith S. Schwartz, and *ENCAUSTIC: The Complete Guide to Creating Fine Art with Wax* by Lissa Rankin. Netzer has served as curator for multiple exhibitions at A.I.R. Gallery, Gallery 128, and elsewhere. Netzer's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in Sweden and Japan and her work is held in several permanent collections.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228, in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11 – 6 pm. For directions please see www.airgallery.org. For additional information, please contact Julie Lohnes at A.I.R. Gallery at 212-255-6651 or jlohnes@airgallery.org.

Image: *Whorl Yellow*, 2012, clay, 20 x 20 x 18 inches