



Elisabeth Munro Smith *Assemblages*

April 29 – May 24, 2009

Reception: Thursday, April 30, 6 – 8pm

BROOKLYN, NY, APRIL, 2009. A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Assemblages*, a solo exhibition of recent work by A.I.R. gallery artist, **Elisabeth Munro Smith**. The exhibit will be on view from April 29th through May 24th, 2009, with an opening reception on April 30th from 6pm to 8pm.



Smith's recent assemblages, like aerial-view maps, depict places from above. Where her earlier work explored the house-form, both as architecture in the landscape and as a metaphor for the self, her recent work has a broader scope: the configurations of the landscape itself. These assemblages describe the shifts and accommodations between the curved, ragged shapes and lines of nature – rivers, mountains, clouds and shores – and the marks that people make – houses, streets, plowed fields, jet-trails, longitude and latitude. Several large wall-hung works (*Landlines* and *The Sea Voyage of Odysseus*) are narratives in space, where bleached, curved vines play off a flat, painted backdrop. Smaller, vertical wall-pieces (*Long river*, *Small river* and *Rivers to lake*) describe a single element within the landscape.

Smith uses a variety of materials in her work: wood (painted wood, milled and found wood and local vines) fiber, paper, metal meshes and wire. Also included in *Assemblages*, are a number of small free-standing needlepoint works composed of wool, cotton and metallic yarns. These three-dimensional pieces (*The known world*, *The meaning of life* and *Movable map*) are self-contained bits of landscape. Six small vessels that sit in black, hand-forged, steel tripods have the landscape elements turned inside out, as mountains become containers with suggestions of map-like markings on their surfaces.

Smith has exhibited outdoor sculpture at Queens College, Ward's Island and Chesterwood, and has been included in many solo and group exhibition throughout the United States. She was previously associated with the Sculpture Center, where she exhibited her work, co-curated the exhibition, *Houses*, and organized a series of panel discussions entitled *What is Public Sculpture?* Her work has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, *Art in America*, *New York Magazine*, *Art News*, and the *Village Voice*. Her website is: www.elisabethmunrosmith.com

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228, in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11am to 6pm. For directions please see www.airgallery.org. For additional information, please contact Kat Griefen at A.I.R. Gallery at 212-255-6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org or Smith's website: elisabethmunrosmith.com.

Image: Detail, *The Sea Voyage of Odysseus*, 2008, Bittersweet and grape vines, wood, canvas, masonite, acrylic, 95" x 30" x 6" sz;