

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE A.I.R. Gallery New York

Ruth Eckland and Marta Thoma - June 6 through June 27, 2000

Opening night: June 8 (6-8 pm)

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11am–6 pm

"Line of Flight"

Opening on June 6 is a new collaborative installation by the multi-media artists **Thoma and Eckland**. The installation is made of stitched aluminum mesh, fiberglass sculpture, and provocative light projections. Amidst the abundance of new computer assisted media art, this work stands out as original. With light as a brush, the artists create surreal images that arrest the imagination, as they seem to hover in space. The team was recently invited to Costa Rica by the National Museum of Contemporary Art and Design.

The experience of the new installation, "Line of Flight," is intended to capture the contradiction and duality of being about the body and at the same time about the body's absence. This is a recurrent theme of Thoma and Eckland's installations. The title, "Line of Flight," refers to a process described by philosophers Luce Irigary, Elizabeth Grosz, and others to navigate territories of the conceptual and corporeal, the body and mind, to a point yet undiscovered, imperceptible and inconceivable. It is an attempt to synthesize and conceptualize dualities and impossibilities that Grosz calls the "inflection of mind into body and body into mind." To access the line of flight, one calls forth different states of being, including the intrauterine experience of space and time, before the umbilical cord was cut, as well as the infant state before a separate identity was made between mother and child, prior to language and the change of perception that language has on the brain. The process is one of including rather than excluding subjective and difficult to describe multiple levels of the experience in a stretch of the imagination.

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