

*AIR Gallery is pleased to announce "Itinera" a new works exhibition by Luisa Sartori*

The work presented is mostly oil-painted wood panels, assembled in three large pieces and in a sequence of smaller ones. Calligraphic lines flow across empty spaces around glowing metal-leafed panels.

The undefined white space of the main pieces is structured by the grid created by the 9"x 9" wood panels. The space solidifies, becomes more physical in a few colored panels, randomly scattered in abstract maps of a kind, in which fluid lines move freely, like traces left in a simplified landscape.

Sartori's work often begins with observations of organic forms and her drawings document progressive stages of abstraction. Concurrently she also draws inspiration from the study of traditional design, patterns from decorative arts and writing systems. She sees all these forms originating from an analogous process of abstraction from nature.

Her work explores the transitional space between the physical and the immaterial, the passage between the world of everyday reality and the unknown underlying it.

Not surprisingly, maps and map-making resonate with her work, as they are abstract representations of places straddling between the physical and the imagined reality.

The titles of the three main pieces are found on the map of the moon. As Sarah Lowe writes in her review: "The notion of mapping the moon is an audacious one, because the moon is at once a real thing and something that we cannot physically experience. In the same way, a map is real but it abstracts information: it stands for the real and requires the imagination to understand it. When the 17<sup>th</sup> century astronomers looked through the first telescopes and mapped the moon, they were heralding the age of astronomy and science. Yet the names they chose suggest something of the alchemic, astrologic Middle Ages. This moment of transition is a metaphor for the passage between the known and the unknown. 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.”