

For Immediate Release

Luisa Sartori
Around the Center

November 8 – December 3, 2005
opening reception: November 10, 6-8pm

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to present *Around the Center*, an exhibition of new work by Luisa Sartori, November 8 – December 3, 2005, with a public reception for the artist Thursday, November 10, from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

Sartori's drawings investigate a time when the sun and the moon – the brightest consistent light sources - were the only tools to measure time. The earliest observations of their cyclical movements around the Earth defined year, seasons, months and weeks; the daily rising of the sun in the east and setting in the west brought the establishment of a fundamental sense of set directions in space. Despite different methods of recording the passage of the sun and the moon against the fixed stars and constellations - *xiu* in China, *nakshatras* in India, and the *zodiac* in old Europe and the Middle East - everywhere the results of celestial observation were recorded through the use of basic geometric symbols like circles and squares and their combinations.

Like a common intercultural language, this symbolic geometry is at the basis of mandala-like plans of many religious and communal buildings in different parts of the world. These buildings are seen as symbol, reflection, miniature of cosmic phenomenon and the stage for cyclical rituals and daily devotion. They can be read as “chronographs”, “memory machines” that bridge cosmic, social and personal time.

Sartori's works evoke these ancient cosmographies, through content as well as through materials and process. Using gesso and oil on wood and paper, Sartori creates a surface quality that replicates ancient panels and parchment. Over this surface, delicate graphite and pigment lines articulate the passages of the sun and moon in gentle “sine waves”, and suggest cosmographic maps and floor plans of ritual spaces in which those maps are mirrored.

Around the Center is Sartori's second solo show at A.I.R. Born in Italy, she was educated and worked as an architect in several countries. She then pursued graduate degree in Fine Arts after moving to New York, where she currently works and lives.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm.
For further information, please contact 212. 255. 6651 or visit www.airnyc.org.