For Immediate Release

**TERRAIN**

Phyllis Ewen

October 3 – 27, 2013

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 3rd 2013, 6-9pm

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to present **TERRAIN,** an exhibition of recent sculptural drawings by artist Phyllis Ewen. This exhibition will be on view from October 3rd – 27th, 2013. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, October 3rd, from 6-9pm. A brochure with an essay by critic and curator, Jill Conner, complements the exhibition.

Phyllis Ewen presents sculptural drawings that explore the fast-changing phenomenon of global warming, highlighting the effects of rising waters and parched earth. Ewen builds three-dimensional topographies through layering, altering and reshaping archival paper, adding paint to create transformed land and seascapes. Each piece consists of scanned maps, charts, and digitally printed photographs. Handmade jigsaw fragments further articulate the three-dimensional surface and ripple throughout the compositions.

In **TERRAIN** as well as her earlier series, **Global Currents,** water becomes a metaphor for a life force that resists being controlled. Focusing on water’s cultural and social history, Ewen looks at issues of fertility and drought, abundance and scarcity, turbulence and quiet. She explores ways in which our imagination and memory interact with our altered natural world.

Jill Conner writes:

**TERRAIN** reflects the surface of what we see when looking at the earth from extreme distances and paradoxically asks us to become submerged in close observation. Phyllis Ewen tests the viewer by reducing the shifting, physical nature of topography into a series of constructions offering up a solid response to recent environmental events such as hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes and the resulting damage. Together the artist’s different combination of motifs, hues and topographic surfaces presents an undulating portrait of environmental evolution. [or devolution?]

Phyllis Ewen has exhibited throughout the U.S and internationally. Her work is in many private and corporate collections as well as in public institutions and museums. Among these are The Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, MA, University of Missouri, Columbia MO, Harvard Business School, Sloan School of Management, the Maud Morgan Art Center in Cambridge MA, and the Boston Public Library. Her studio is in Somerville, MA.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228 in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wed. – Sun., 11am to 6pm. For directions please visit [www.airgallery.org](http://www.airgallery.org). For more information please contact the Interim Director, JoAnne McFarland at 212-255-6651 or info@airgallery.org.

Image: Phyllis Ewen, **Northern Waters 3 (Detail),** 2013, digital print, paint, puzzle pieces, and archival paper

A.I.R. Gallery – Celebrating over 40 years of advocating for women in the visual arts