

SALTWORKS



HOME ARTISTS EXHIBITIONS NEWS FAQ

SALTWORKS GALLERY

664 11TH STREET NW / ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30318

ARCHIVE

PHONE (404) 881 0411 / INFO@SALTWORKSGALLERY.COM

FUTURE

Hours / Wednesday - Saturday 12 - 5

Monster, 2009 (animation still), digital video, edition of 3, 2 min 47 sec.

PREMA MURTHY

BREAKING THE GRID

*Exhibitions Dates: May 14, 2010 – June 19, 2010**Opening Reception: Friday, May 14, 7pm-10pm**Artist talk, Saturday, May 15 @ 1pm*

SALTWORKS is pleased to present *Breaking the Grid*, an exhibition of new works by Atlanta-New York based artist, Prema Murthy. The exhibition features video, works on paper and a site-specific installation. This is Ms. Murthy's second solo exhibition at the gallery. She will give an informal artist talk on the exhibition at 1pm on Saturday, May 15, during the Westside Art Walk.

The title of the exhibition, *Breaking the Grid*, is a play on the use of the "grid" in 3D modeling graphics programs as well as its use in Modernist art as a stylistic device to perpetuate the idea of the monolithic and monumental. Murthy's interest is in the poetic and political potential that can rupture through when the "grid" is broken down. For this exhibition, Murthy continues her exploration of placing lines in space to create deconstructed grids. On the surface, a line may seem like a very simple form and idea. But below it, is a myriad of metaphors that a line may evoke – boundaries mapped, landscapes measured, in both geo-political and psychic terms as well.

The site-specific installation, *Breaking the Grid (Tarnac 9)*, consists of black yarn knotted at intervals that portray densely, overlaid netlike webs and geometric shapes painted on the walls that depict perspective drawings of topographic maps or schematic drawings of the cosmos. Black and white paintings and color digital prints reflect similar angular forms and lines that mirror the structure of the installation.

Along with her interest in line, Murthy also draws from science fiction narratives and their utopic/dystopic ways of describing worlds that reflect our own. In the video *Monster*, lines are mapped with demographic data to create a living organism. The song in the video, entitled *King of Monsters* and performed by Japanese musician Miho Hatori, expresses how a sense of new hope and optimism can be generated out of something as destructive and monstrous as the Atomic bomb.

Prema Murthy was born in Seattle, WA and raised in Houston, TX, she received a BA in art history from the University of Texas, Austin and an MFA from Goldsmith's College in London. She later moved to New York City where she worked in graphic design and was an artist assistant to Jeff Koons. Her video, paintings, drawings, prints and installation have been exhibited nationally and internationally at galleries and museums including PS1/MoMA Contemporary Art Center, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the New Museum of Contemporary Art, the Reina Sofia Museum-Madrid, and the Generali Foundation-Vienna. Murthy currently divides her time between Atlanta and New York.

SALTWORKS © 2009