

Exhibition Guide

Claudia Losi *Aria Mobile*

Tower Room

28 March – 20 May 2006

Born in 1971, Claudia Losi lives and works in Piacenza, Italy. She studied at both the Bologna Academy of Fine Arts and the Bologna University of Foreign Languages and Literatures and has exhibited widely in Europe and America.

Aria Mobile (2006) is a work that explores numerous themes found in Losi's practice as a whole. The shimmering, delicate sphere takes the form of a traditional Japanese Mari ball; an embroidered ball of thread given as a good luck gift to loyal, cherished friends. Material remnants, threads and yarn are tightly wound together before being 'mended' – sewn or darned together with delicate patterns – to prevent them from unravelling.

In *Aria Mobile*, Losi borrows from this time-consuming, ancient and contemplative process whilst also incorporating new layers of meaning and association into the work. The object was created over a number of years and comprises yarn, wool and silk gathered by Losi from across the world. Midnight blue tapestry wool was bought at the Porte de Clignancourt market in Paris, yarn the colour of alpine butter found in Kirkwell on Orkney and thick, red wool, negotiated in Cruja, Albania. After the addition of each layer, Losi undertook an exchange with writer and poet Matteo Meschiari, who in turn, contributed his poetic interpretation and reflection to the work. Finally, after embroidering the profile of the continents, Losi covered the sphere with threads flowing in the direction of high altitude winds, mirroring both her journey and the nature of what she experienced whilst travelling. By etching the direction of the wind onto the surface, she reminds us how such terrain is subjected to a continuous, universal 'drift'.

Losi comments,

"I think that my work simply comes from my desire to tell things which belong to everyone's life, even if in different ways... I think that I could tell a story about any

of my creations and, in some cases, the meaning of the creation would be the story itself.”

The experiential nature of Losi’s practice – her need to walk, see and explore – is as vital to her making as the winding and embroidering itself. As in *Aria Mobile*, her objects almost become living forms or organisms – she transforms her encounters into a map of the physical and emotional terrain she has explored.