

## HELEN MIRRA

*Map of parallel 59°S at a scale of one inch  
to one degree longitude*

2000  
cat. no. 58

Bringing together science and poetry, Helen Mirra's latitude lines connect the metaphorical languages of time and space with experiential realities of travel and geography. This series replicates twenty-six imaginary lines that encircle the earth. Mapping every seventh latitude from the North Pole to the South Pole at a scale of one inch to one degree, Mirra hand-dyed strips of cloth to correspond in color to the surfaces of the earth that the lines traverse: green for farmland, blue for water, brown for tundra and desert.

As the artist explains, the bands of latitude act as "a way to enact a spatialization of temporality,"<sup>1</sup> and by using thin bands measured to replicate rolls of 16mm film, Mirra incorporates a reference to the moving image and its ability to capture time in a progression of pictures. Beginning near one entrance to the exhibition, *Parallel 59°S* stretches along a narrow passage, as if demarcating an interior journey, but farther into the exhibition, *Parallel 46°N* is shown wound upon itself, like a reel of film containing a voyage that has yet to be seen. Mirra's simple piece of rolled cloth embodies travel across the extremities of geography yet is small enough to fit in our hands, features of the earth distilled into a portable measure.

A.H.

1. Helen Mirra, notes for the exhibition *Laws of Clash*, Donald Young Gallery, Chicago, 2005, [http://www.hmirra.net/information/pdfs/mirra\\_pressreleases.pdf](http://www.hmirra.net/information/pdfs/mirra_pressreleases.pdf).

HELEN MIRRA

*Map of parallel 46°N at a scale of one inch  
to one degree longitude*

2000  
cat. no. 57

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