

AISHLEEN LESTER

b.1977 Brighton, England

Arabesques

260 cm (h) 2006. Resin, polyester, silver weaving-string, polyester-plastic and fish-wire

Like an unconscious visual, or sensual memory, husk-like forms willingly adapt to their surroundings in the sculptural installations of Aishleen Lester. After an academic training followed by an out-of-the-box move away from painting, Lester began to physically build the spaces her paintings alluded to. Like true 'relational' beings, adjusting to the height and volume of their new environment, negotiating both floor and the ceiling, volumic space and an ambiguous terrestrial depth, these *Arabesques* are well-named. Their aquatic, benign shapes speak a language of both optimism and innocence; collectively there is almost a forest of yearning, like a meditation by Samuel Barber or a song by Peter Warlock. Poised, existing in negative and positive, they are both slow-mo and motionless. Imagine how these graceful creatures once moved. Are they the inner or the outer of something? Conceived to float above the water-line or below? Appearing or disappearing? Their fragility and innate grace creates a sense of ultimate peace.

Aishleen Lester's work featured in the exhibition *Chimera*, London, May, 2006