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JULIA FRIEDMAN GALLERY 118 N Peoria, Chicago, IL 60607

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NATALIA BLANCH, WRITING OF SOUND
AT JULIA FRIEDMAN GALLERY

December 7, 2001 - January 26, 2002

Opening reception December 7, 6-8 PM

JULIA FRIEDMAN GALLERY

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Tu-F 10 - 6, Sat 11-6

Julia Friedman Gallery is pleased to announce *Writing of Sound*, a solo exhibition of recent works by Natalia Blanch. This exhibition, opening December 7, marks the first solo exhibition for the artist in the United States and will feature mixed media works on metal and works on paper. By fusing elements of drawing, sculpture, performance, and sound; Blanch addresses the intimate nature of communication within the human experience.

In the *Writing of Sound* series, Blanch recorded her voice as she read from three chosen texts, the *Bible*, *Machzor*, and a book of alchemy, *La Triple Via Del Fuego*, then transcribed the recordings into pattern-based images both manually and digitally. Blanch meticulously etched the output of her voice into metal plates; producing wall pieces which suggest the lingering quality of sound and a resonating tone. In conjunction with these etched wall pieces, Blanch has created works on paper which carry forward the same intensely process-oriented format, both forms reflecting upon acts of devotion inherent to religious observance.

The repetitious imagery and relic quality Blanch implements directly reference acts such as prayer, chant, meditation, and ceremony. In choosing texts of religious significance, the artist is able to fully realize the impact and constant integration of sound and image in highly personal and emotionally charged systems of communication. Blanch's investigation of the communicative form stems from the historical and contemporary, the personal and universal, producing works that effectively echo the intricacies of ritual.

Originally from Argentina, Natalia Blanch has exhibited at several venues including The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, La Habana, Cuba; Emilio Caraffa Provincial Museum, Cordoba, Argentina; The Art Student's League, New York, NY; and Jorge Luis Borges Cultural Center, Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has recently completed a residency program with artist/musician Paul Miller at Atlantic Center for the Arts in Florida. Natalia Blanch will be present for the opening at Julia Friedman Gallery on December 7, 2001.

Julia Friedman Gallery opened May 2001 and exhibits contemporary international art in all media.