

BEST OF 2008 ARTFORUM

DECEMBER 2008 I N T E R N A T I O N A L

The Artists' Artists **BEST OF 2008**

Lize Mogel, *Area of Detail*, 2008.
Installation view, Common Room, New York.



MATTHEW BUCKINGHAM

Lize Mogel, Area of Detail (Common Room, New York) Mogel's diverse yet precise work as an artist, curator, and editor reminds us that we never escape geography, society, and politics. In *Area of Detail*, Mogel examines the United Nations emblem—a map that looks “down” on Earth's Northern Hemisphere, presciently depicting the North Pole without its ice cap. As global climate change is making natural resources and shipping routes in the Arctic Circle newly accessible, the UN has become a platform for debate among arctic nations seeking to use the formerly impassable Northwest Passage. Mogel, coeditor of *An Atlas of Radical Cartography*, presents a new view of this familiar terrain by skillfully remapping it against the grain.