

Zaccagnini, Carla. "Iran do Espírito Santo," *Flash Art International*, May / June 2008.

Flash Art

SÃO PAULO

Iran do Espírito Santo

Galeria Fortes Vilaça

Nothing is placed on the floor, stuck onto the walls or hung from the ceiling in Iran do Espírito Santo's present show at Galeria Fortes Vilaça. However, the whole gallery is inhabited and transformed by his work. The three walls on the top floor and the three larger ones on the ground floor have been painted with regular parallel stripes in 53 different shades of gray. The lines, vertical downstairs and horizontal in the smaller space upstairs, vary gradually and subtly move from dark to light and vice versa, step by step. From a distance, this regular rhythm is not perceptible; it looks like a whole, a surface distorted by a variation of light. On the top floor, where the gray gradation gets darker as it gets higher, it looks as if some kind of dark liquid could be coming from above, slowly impregnating the whole room with that shade. These wall paintings are very much related to the series of drawings "CRTN" (2005). In those small-scale drawings, parallel lines made with black permanent markers vary in shade according to the usage of each pen, getting lighter as the marker got older. Though it is a very structured process, with rigid rules, the resulting drawings seem to depict a curtain or a series of curtains with the sunlight coming through at different times of the day or the year. As in *Nostalgia*, a title that can transform a green rug into an artificial grassland, Espírito Santo's work often oscillates between figuration and abstraction, constructing a field where things are and are not what they seem to be.

Carla Zaccagnini



IRAN DO ESPÍRITO SANTO, *En Passant*, 2008. Latex on wall. Courtesy Galeria Fortes Vilaça, São Paulo. Photo: Eduardo Ortega.