

New Editions 2015

Victoria Burge

Light Study I–III (2015)

Suite of three relief prints with embossing, 26 x 20 inches each. Edition of 15. Printed and published by Aspinwall Editions, New York. \$750 each.

Plump, embossed ellipses of pure white paper play across the surfaces of Victoria Burge’s recent prints. So subtle as to be nearly unreadable in reproduction, they are best viewed in person. The compositions evoke patterns commonly encountered in nature, but the crisp, abstract imagery implies an analytic approach. “Through photographic note-taking,” Burge says, “I have charted how certain conditions—wind, temperature, location, time—influence water’s interaction with light.”¹

Burge began this line of inquiry—distinct from her map-based work—in 2011, self-publishing a number of prints in small editions: *Pixels on the River #1–3* (2012), *Snowing #1–3* (2012) and *Drift* (2013). Working from her own photographs, Burge generates highly refined digital vector drawings that are translated to a laser-cut Plexiglas matrix and printed in high relief on an intaglio press. In earlier reliefs, the dots were small and the patterns dense, but for this project Burge opened up the composition, expanded the ellipses and gently accentuated their forms with a faint tonal background. The effect is more



Victoria Burge, *Light Study I* (2015).

dramatic but still retains the earlier work’s “delicacy and effervescence,” in the words of printer and publisher Ann Aspinwall.² While each stands on its own as an independent image, the artist designed them to flow together when displayed as a group.

This body of work recalls Roni Horn’s photographic studies of water from the early aughts, but Burge moves away from representation, exploring paper as a surface upon which light is

refracted. She elaborates: “Just as light and water interact and activate one another within their environment, raking light activates the captured forms of this printed edition and brings the quiet surfaces of the paper to life.” ■

—Sarah Kirk Hanley

Notes:

1. Victoria Burge, quoted in Aspinwall Editions information sheet, nd.
2. Email correspondence, 27 January 2016.