

PROOF

LEAH BEEFERMAN | NEW EDITIONS 2018



Force 2 (Flow), collagraph and archival inkjet with chine collé, 32 ¼ x 19 1/8 in. Edition 10.

Brooklyn-based artist Leah Beferman has spent the better part of the last decade traveling in remote areas characterized by their distinctive landscapes and geological features: the rocky coastlines of Norway, the volcanic terrain of Iceland, the icy fjords of the Arctic territory of Svalbard, and the dense forests of Finland. The sights and sounds of these locales form the basis of videos, sound pieces, and digital prints where the physical and virtual realms collide. Collaging her personal lexicon of digitally-generated marks over and under fragmented images of waves, rocks, sand, and snow, Beferman stages visual contestations between observation and abstraction, reality and virtuality.

Following an open call for project proposals, Beferman was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Island Press Emerging Artist Fellowship. This biennial program was established in 2016 to recognize artists in the early stages of their career who exhibit exceptional potential. During her weeklong residency, Beferman migrated her pursuit of immateriality from the digital arena to the print workshop, a space inherently distinguished by the physicality of its substances, tools, and processes. *Force 2 (Flow)* is a multilayered work combining collagraph inkjet printing, and chine collé. The print is anchored by a video still that captures the explosive force with which lava spewed from the fissures of the Icelandic lava field of Holuhraun during a 2014 eruption. Beferman first became enthralled with the Holuhraun eruption when she watched the event unfold in real time via live video stream. Now color-shifted to yellow and rendered in printer's ink, the lava has entered a new

phase of matter. The new tonality lends the eruption a hallucinatory quality, which is heightened by the amorphous forms that seem to hover over the lava, like floaters passing through our field of vision.

The *Force* series also adds a new dimension to Beferman's ongoing engagement with quantum mechanics, specifically with the concept that ostensibly empty spaces are dense with matter that is imperceptible to the human eye. *Force 1 (Float)* offers a space of infinite depth and highly charged activity. It envelopes us in a field of richly pigmented blue ink, which was mixed locally in St. Louis to replicate the blue used prominently in her digital videos and prints. Beferman first experimented with translating this hue to the graphic realm in the book *Triple*





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Point, which used the relationship between lava and solid rock to explore questions of conversion in art and physics. In the Island Press edition, enigmatic shapes of pure, saturated color—both printed and collaged—are suspended just above the paper surface, while hazier bodies recede below, gesturing toward the movement and materiality subatomic particles. Like much of her work, the Force prints simultaneously conjure observable, natural phenomena and the unseen, intangible forces that propel them.

by Heather A. Hughes, Saint Louis Art Museum

ABOUT LEAH BEEFERMAN:

Leah Beeferman is an artist from New York City, currently based in Helsinki. She has had solo exhibitions at Rawson Projects, NY and Sorbus, Helsinki. Recent two-person and group exhibitions include Klaus von Nichtssagend, NY; Bass & Reiner, San Francisco; Fridman Gallery, NY; Ditch Projects, OR; Interstate Projects, Brooklyn; Tyson, Cologne; and Toves, Copenhagen. Residencies include LMCC Workspace, NY; The Arctic Circle, Svalbard; Mustarinda, Finland; Sirius, Ireland; and Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago. Publications include *Triple Point*, an artist book published by Lodret Vandret, Copenhagen. Beeferman received an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BA from Brown University. From 2016-17, she traveled to Finland on a Fulbright Scholar Award.

IslandPress

CONTEMPORARY PRINT EDITIONS AND ARTIST PROJECTS

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Island Press is a research-based printmaking workshop and publisher committed to education and innovation in contemporary print editions and artist projects. Visiting artists work side by side with the master printer and students in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis. The result is high-quality print editions of technical complexity created in a unique setting where artists and students share skill sets and ideas.

Island Press is project-driven and collaborative, tapping into the place where the artist's creative research intersects with the all of the

possibilities of the print studio. Recent artist projects include editions with Radcliffe Bailey, Chakaia Booker, Willie Cole, Henrik Drescher, Chris Duncan, Tom Friedman, Orly Genger, Ann Hamilton, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Nina Katchadourian, Shaun O'Dell, Dario Robleto, Lisa Sanditz, Beverly Semmes, and James Siena.

Island Press was founded in 1978. Past visiting artists include Hung Liu, Jaune Quick-To-See-Smith, Joyce Scott, Juan Sanchez, Nick Cave, and many other great artists.

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