

Artist Statement

These works about water reclamation were inspired in part by a specific California central coast power company's water project that was specifically designed to introduce reused clean water into a stream, so that steel head trout could continue to spawn. This project was a direct result of regulatory statutes that made water reclamation mandatory in order to extract more oil from the ground.

The etchings derive from my observations of the many different environments that I have passed through. Beginning with photographs of these different locales I deconstruct the imagery and then create a new modified image blended with abstracted graphic scientific data. The science is from charts and graphs used in the actual treatment and reclamation of water. These graphics demonstrate some of the current analysis for water reuse in the power industry. The color changes and details of the scientific data included in these works are subtle and not immediately recognizable. The data is continued with blind embossing, which can be more easily seen in person, but difficult to discern in an online image. The blind emboss traverse the photo etching out onto the white paper.

These artworks emphasize the importance and future of water in the overall context of our environment and global warming. Climate change is making water shortages occur more frequently. Clean, reclaimed water that is put back into streams and aquifers will help mitigate the competition for water and preserve the natural environment needed by both humans and wildlife.

My art practice embraces chance and choice; stillness and movement; repression and freedom; conceptual and material; reality and dreams - a collage of personal experiences within the world that surrounds us. I focus on the shifting layers of experience balancing between the deeply personal and the political. Objects, words, places, and the world around me filter into my work reappearing in subtle under layers. The unpredictability and the necessity of making difficult choices, has long been a part of my work, often appearing abstractly, while quietly referencing social justice, betrayal and struggle.

Bio

Beth Fein is an interdisciplinary artist and curator who lives in Berkeley, CA. She works in her Oakland studio and as an artist-in-residence at KALA Art Institute in Berkeley. Fein's art practice includes installation, sculpture, printmaking, video, and performance. She has exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work is in the collections of: the Yale University Library, the Oakland Museum of California, Taller Grafica Experimental Havana, and the San Francisco Art Commission. Fein has been awarded artist residencies in Cuba, Spain, Argentina, Basel, Switzerland, New York, Vermont and California. She teaches non-toxic and new technology print workshops. Fein is a professional member of the California Society of Printmakers, the Los Angeles Society of Printmakers and the Boston Printmakers.