

## ALEXANDRA LAKE

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The process of printmaking allows me to explore my interests through repetition and layers. Without personally understanding their motivations, I work with images through different compositions and additions of printed layers until I believe that they are represented authentically. Through the intentional use of different printmaking techniques, I maintain some control over the appearance of my forms. However, I enjoy exploiting the unpredictable nature of some techniques as well as the 'black box' nature of the press to allow the forms to emerge with a life of their own.

I am inspired by natural forms that possess an indefinable attraction. I only pursue the exploration of a structure if I cannot pin down exactly what is appealing about it and, therefore, feel obligated to give it a sense of autonomy in my production of it. My general sense of isolation and vulnerability both for myself and the existence of other living things also influence what figures I am drawn towards. I treat my work as an investigation into the false sense of security that comes from our biological existence. I find that the contradiction of nests is a great platform to explore this fragility. While

proposing safety and comfort, nests are themselves delicate structures that provide no assured protection. Lately, I have been extending this metaphor to bodies. In my work, life forms become nested 'selves'; perpetuating their existence by relying on their biological structures to let them continue. These forms embody the anxious empathy I find when realizing that our greatest bond to our surroundings is our shared quality of impermanence.



A. Lake, *Nested Selves*, 2015  
Collagraph and Litho Ink; 23.5" x 38"



**A. Lake, *Selves*, 2015**  
Collagraph, Lithograph, and Litho Ink; 16.5" x 23"



**A. Lake, *Untitled*, 2015**  
Collagraph and Conte Crayon; 32.5" x 45"