



grafting shadows

by

Holly de Moissac

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in

Printmaking

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Holly de Moissac / **grafting shadows**

A stray bolt of lightning, a flicked cigarette, a floating ember secretly departs the unattended fire. A spark whispers to the forest, sinking towards a journey of emergence and oblivion. Do you feel it? This anticipation of disaster softly permeates our understanding of the present world.

In this discomfort, we may choose to break our gaze with the spark and move further from the trees. Precarity is painful. Such detachment signals a departure from the macro world, from the nature within our bodies, and the value of disturbance. How can one care for systems that have not been sensed or known, whose words are left untranslated, and whose wild presence has been carefully excised? How can the fate of a distant tree in the alpine zone concern the human who doesn't know the forest?

“Resilience is an ecosystem’s ability to endure disturbances and changes without substantially changing in character. [...] a resilient ecosystem can sail into a warmer future with only minor adjustments, while a stressed ecosystem collapses at the first hot summer” (Marris 36).

In the global ecology, moderate levels of disturbance ensure diversity and resilience¹; tired deadfall turns to carbon and new cones awake. In our fleeting bodies, pain and experience ripple toward the brain in feedback loops—a flame can burn and comfort. We’ve learned to keep our hands out of the fire. On either side of moderation, disaster and disconnection hold sway: overabundant disturbance leaves no space for learning or recovery while absent or suppressed disturbance leaves vulnerable landscapes, unprepared for change.

In my practice, disturbance is transformational material. Drawing close to sites of fragmentation in the global ecology offers a chance to process and prepare for the textures of discomfort and pain that are inherent to the living world. Long-form conversations with such sites have resulted in psychological spaces that plot humanity and body within ecological arcs of change.

Through this tender discourse, a smouldering forest is marked in charcoal, physically deconstructed, and digitally spoken by the heat of a laser; the ethereal nature of bodies and resources are carefully sealed into the thin skin of balloons; the hierarchical space and longings of natural science find themselves within the specimen; the granular complexity of sun-time marks macro cycles of disaster and relief. Each work is a feedback loop, marking months or years spent speaking with discomfort, moving closer to a pain-touched world that seeks more than bare survival.

This material dialogue seeks a shared resilience within the global ecology, that embraces the wondrous and disastrous potential of all life on earth. This pursuit demands an engagement with the living world and a wakefulness to it, finding hopeful trajectories in the strange connections, serendipitous ecosystems, and hybrid bodies that endlessly unfold.

¹ See Kimmerer, page 67, for a summary of the Intermediate Disturbance Hypothesis.

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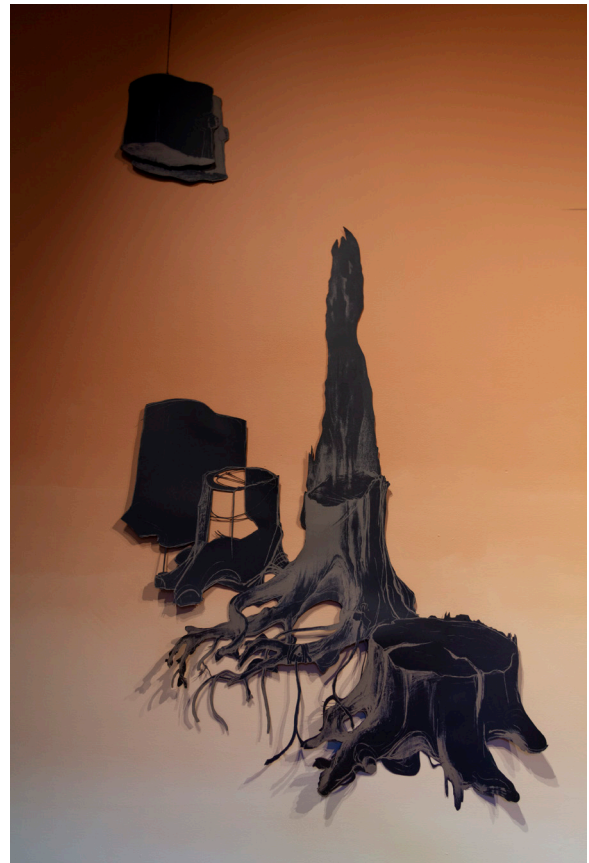


de Moissac_001 - above

Afterglow

2021

Installation: laser engraving,
drawing, cut paper, paint
dimensions variable

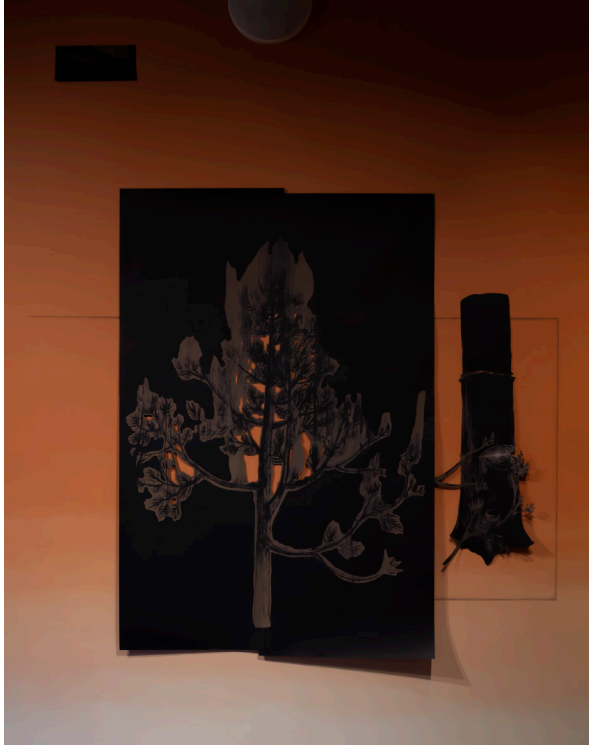


de Moissac_002 - right

Afterglow (detail)

2021

Installation: laser engraving,
drawing, cut paper, paint
dimensions variable



de Moissac_003

Afterglow

2021

Installation: laser engraving,
drawing, cut paper, paint
dimensions variable



de Moissac_004 **Afterglow** 2021 Installation: laser engraving, drawing, cut paper, paint
dimensions variable



de Moissac_005 **Afterglow (detail)** 2021 drawing, laser engraving on paper 19 3/4" x 25 1/4" ea.



de Moissac_006 **Afterglow** 2021 Installation: laser engraving, drawing, cut paper, paint
dimensions variable



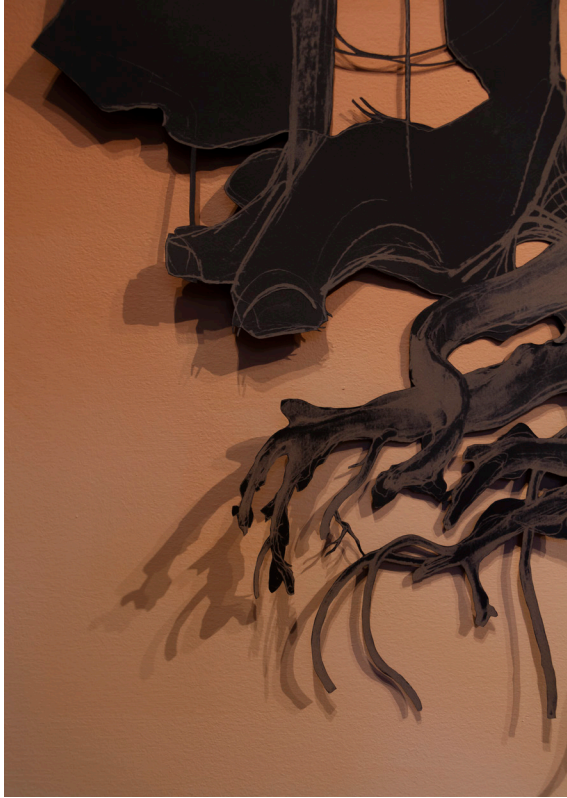
de Moissac_007
Afterglow (detail)
2021
charcoal, paint
dimensions variable



de Moissac_008 **Afterglow** 2021 Installation: laser engraving, drawing, cut paper, paint
dimensions variable



de Moissac_009 **Afterglow: The Wanderer (*Pinus Albicaulis*)** 2020 drawing, laser engraving on paper, paint 36" x 50"



de Moissac_010 **Afterglow (detail)**
2021
Installation: laser engraving,
cut paper, paint
dimensions variable



de Moissac_011 **Afterglow (detail)** 2021 laser engraving on paper *dimensions variable*



de Moissac_012 **Echo Chamber** 2021 Installation: mixed media, water, glass, copper, sunlight, found and constructed objects, organic and inorganic material, sound *dimensions variable*



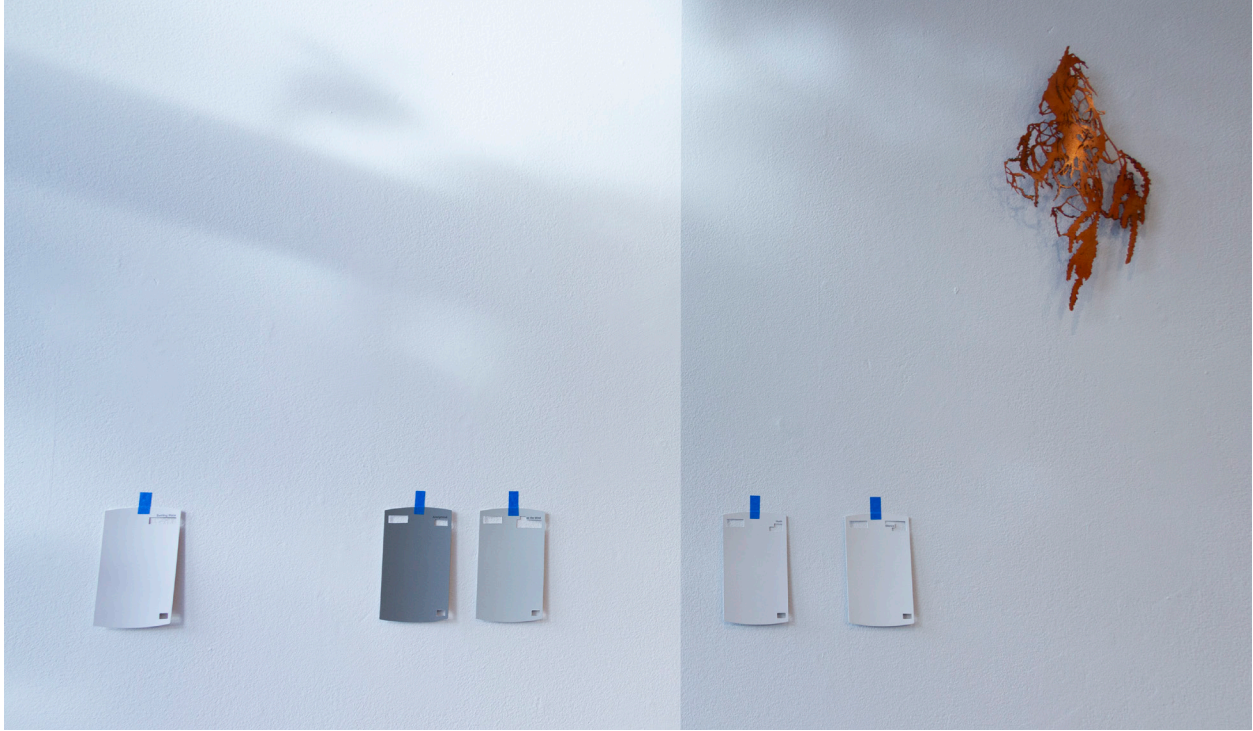
de Moissac_013
Echo Chamber (detail)
2021
mixed media, water, glass, teeth,
sunlight, discomfort, sound
dimensions variable



de Moissac_014 - *left*
Echo Chamber (detail)
2021
cyanotype, chine-collé, tape, paint
31" x 43"

de Moissac_015 - *right*
Echo Chamber (detail)
2021
plant cuttings, glass, glycerin,
and water (2 weeks)
dimensions variable





de Moissac_016 **Echo Chamber (detail)** 2021 paint swatches, tape, copper, paint
dimensions variable



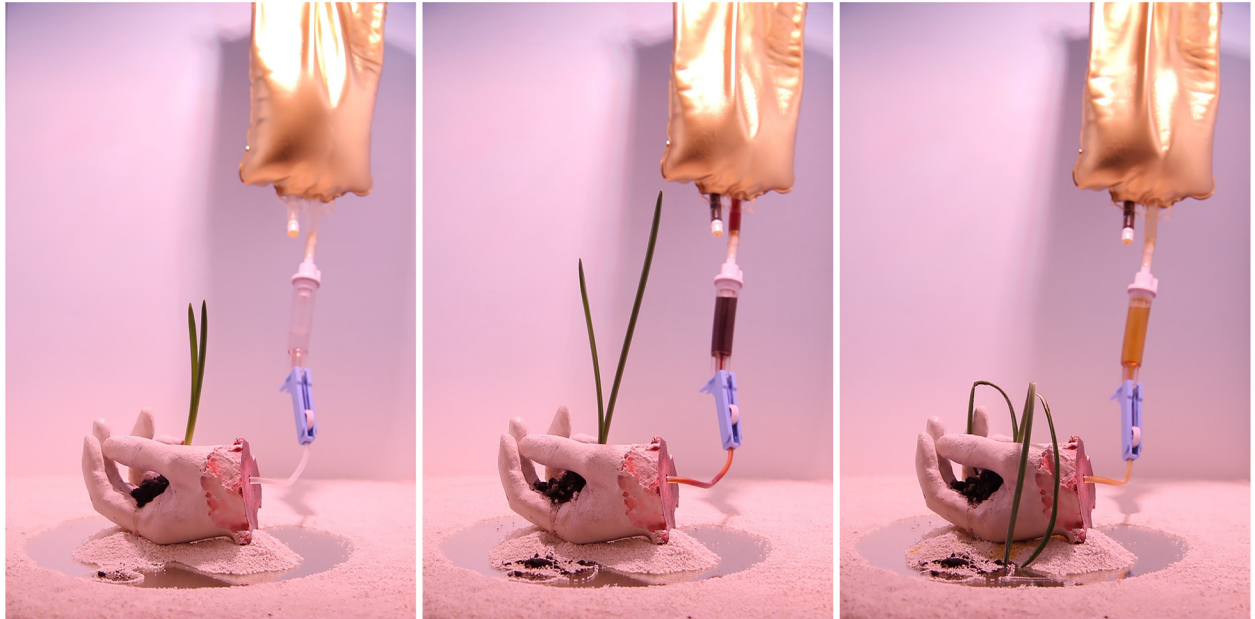
de Moissac_017
Echo Chamber (detail)
 2021
 cut paint swatches, tape: "swirling water//
 anonymous/ as the wind// hush/ silence"
dimensions variable



de Moissac_018
Echo Chamber (detail)
 2019
 lady's thumb, etched copper
 6.5" x 11"



de Moissac_019 **Echo Chamber** 2021 Installation: cyanotype, separation funnel, water, animation, laser engraving, flora, sound *dimensions variable*



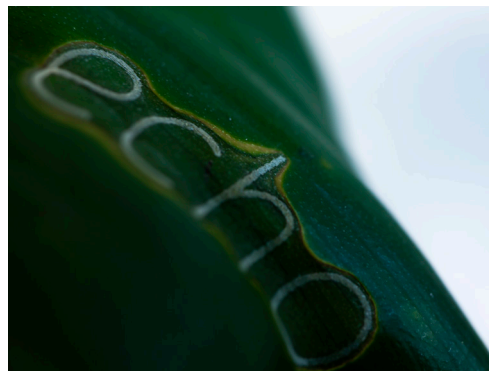
de Moissac_020 **Well in Hand** 2019 stop-motion animation, sound *dimensions variable*



de Moissac_021 - left
Echo Chamber (detail)

2021

laser engraving on philodendron, separation
 funnel: this / persistent // echo
dimensions variable



de Moissac_022 - above
Echo Chamber (detail)

2021

laser engraving on
 philodendron
dimensions variable

de Moissac_023 - left
Echo Chamber

2021

Installation: cyanotype,
 chine-collé, glass, water,
 animation, laser engraving,
 flora, sound, light
dimensions variable



de Moissac_024

To the Last Drop (detail)

2021

Installation: mixed media, silkscreen on hand-sealed foil, helium, plaster, light
dimensions variable

drip

drip

drip

*follow it steadily
 the slow*

cool sensation

flowing through

*pouring out
 draining*

away

to the last drop

de Moissac_025

To the Last Drop (detail)

2021

Installation: plaster, foil, plastic, light
dimensions variable





de Moissac_026 - above

To the Last Drop

2021

Installation: mixed media, silkscreen on hand-sealed foil, helium, light dimensions variable



de Moissac_027 - left

To the Last Drop (detail)

2021

Installation: mixed media, silkscreen on hand-sealed foil, helium, light dimensions variable



de Moissac_028 **To the Last Drop** 2021 Installation: mixed media, silkscreen on hand-sealed foil, helium, plaster, light *dimensions variable*



de Moissac_029 **To the Last Drop** 2021 Installation: mixed media, silkscreen on hand-sealed foil, helium, plaster, light *dimensions variable*



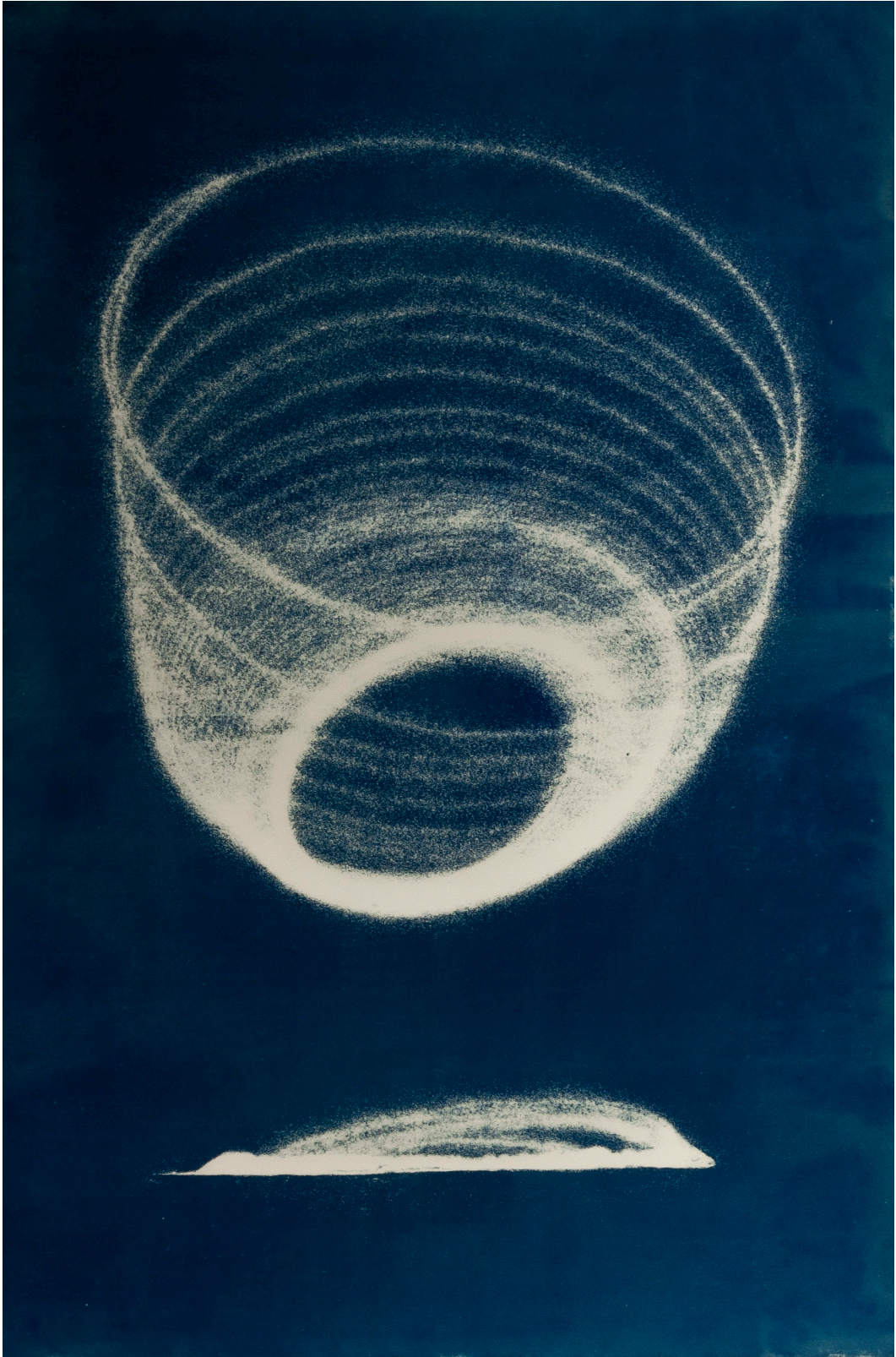
de Moissac_030 **Ides** 8 cyanotypes, chine-collé on rag paper 28 ¾" x 44"



de Moissac_031 **Ides (detail)** cyanotype, chine-collé on rag paper 28 ¾" x 44"



de Moissac_032 **Ides I-VIII** 8 cyanotypes, chine-collé on rag paper 28 ¾" x 44"



de Moissac_033 **Ide III** 8 cyanotype, chine-collé on rag paper 28 ¾" x 44"

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hollydemoissac.com