

ELECTRIC WORKS

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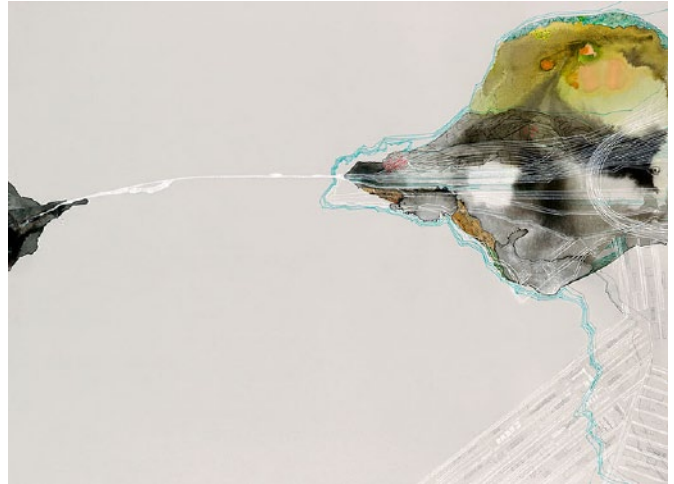
Hughen/Starkweather

Approach, Transition, Touchdown: The San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge Project

Exhibition Dates October 21–November 23, 2011

Coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the opening of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, Electric Works is pleased to announce *Approach, Transition, Touchdown: The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge Project* by Hughen/Starkweather.

Hughen/Starkweather create collaborative artworks that explore the layers, complexities and patterns that comprise a specific place using both current and historic information — photographs, maps and data — to research a location. The resulting artworks map unique forms and patterns derived from built systems and natural movements of a place.



Hughen/Starkweather: *Yerba Buena*, 2011. Archival pigment print
30x40: edition of 5 40x60: edition of 3

Approach, Transition, Touchdown is a new series of prints and drawings focusing on the historic and current construction of the Bay Bridge. Over the course of two years, the artists were given access to architectural and engineering drawings, maps and diagrams, photographs of ongoing construction, as well as on-site visits by boat and on foot during various phases of construction. (Particularly notable was a vertiginous trip via steel construction elevator to the scaffolding at the top of the new tower.) They met with engineers, architects and designers involved with the project who explained the immense complexities and intricacies of the design and construction.

THE BRIDGE

This November marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Bay Bridge in 1936. At the time, many believed it would be impossible to build the bridge because of high winds, muddy depths, strong waters and varying soils. There had been discussion of building a bridge between San Francisco and Oakland since the 1870s, but the process was delayed due to many factors. Once completed in 1936, it was the longest bridge in the world.

Fast forward to 1989, when the Loma Prieta earthquake collapsed a section of the east span and initiated seismic upgrades and eventually an



Hughen/Starkweather: *Original Bridge*, 2011. Archival pigment print
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entirely new design for the east span. The project has passed through four governors, political hurdles and extensive design reviews. When the new bridge opens in 2013, it will be the most complex engineering feat in the history of California. The new structure, which begins at the Yerba Buena Island, will be the largest self-anchored suspension bridge in the world, with a single tower rising 525 feet into the air and transitioning to a graceful skyway that touches down in Oakland. Whereas the current bridge is double-decked, the replacement will feature side-by-side decks and a 15.5-foot-wide bicycle and pedestrian path running along the eastbound deck.

IN THE PROJECT ROOM: ANDY VOGT

Electric Works is pleased to welcome Andy Vogt to the project space. In it he has created new work in his preferred medium: lath. Lath is the usually-invisible sterculia element found in interior walls and ceilings over the last few hundred years; hidden away behind plaster, most of the homes and buildings in this country are supported by this humble element which has in great part been replaced by Sheetrock. These architectural material-based sculptures inhabit the gallery in a beautiful, spidery manner. There is a certain sense of nostalgia, or at least a harkening back to another time in these delicate sculptures.

Vogt also works in the realm of light, using reflection and shadows as his method of sculpting the space around us. Some of these new works which rely on projection, mirrored glass, and lenses are also included in the show. Unlike many light-based artists, Vogt eschews nearly any trace of color, and the almost purely black and white world he illuminates with this new work is engaging on a formal, but also spectral level.



Andy Vogt *Shade Shape*, 2011 Salvaged wood 26.5" x 92.5 x 1.5"