

BORCH

NIELS BORCH JENSEN

John Zurier | *Summer Book*

Opening: 28 October 2016, 6 – 9 pm

Exhibition: 29 October 2016 – 14 January 2017

*A lovely thing to see:
through the paper window's hole,
the Galaxy. – Issa (1763–1828)*

Niels Borch Jensen Gallery & Editions are thrilled to present the print shop's first collaboration with John Zurier, in the solo exhibition *Summer Book* in our Berlin gallery.

In John Zurier's works, seemingly monochromatic surfaces evolve into visual poetry. His language is minimal and at the same time very distinct: linear elements build up space through an interaction of presence and absence. Inspired by observations of natural phenomena, light conditions and colour, the works convey a characteristic calmness and purity.

While working with Niels Borch Jensen Editions in the summer of 2016, Zurier investigated the technique of line etching as a way of drawing on the plate: *'What I was looking for in these prints was a slow and variable light. What I found was a way to bring drawings to the surface.'* He effortlessly translates his artistic practice as a painter from canvas to copper plate to make the very process of printmaking visible: The marks in the plate, executed by brush or needle, become evident; the force with which the paper is pressed into the indentations is almost palpable. The three-dimensionality of ink sitting on paper, the rich texture of the surfaces, the physical material at hand becomes the topic of a meditation on color and surface.

Summer Book, the title of the exhibition and the portfolio of eight etchings, refers to Zurier's stay in Copenhagen: *'Working on the small plates, it occurred to me that they had an intimacy like looking at the pages of a book. When I wasn't working, I would wander around the city looking at the light reflecting on the water and the buildings, and the trees against the sky, and the deepening shadows of late evening in King's Garden. The idea of making a book of summer notes came to me. I thought of it as a book of random visual vignettes, formless with no apparent order, where the pleasure comes from finding the subtle connections and contrasts.'*

The exhibition gathers the *Summer Book* prints as well as four further prints that are directly linked to some of Zurier's most recent paintings (courtesy Nordenhake Gallery Berlin / Stockholm), one of which will be presented alongside the prints.

John Zurier, born 1956 in Santa Monica, lives and works in Berkeley, California. His work is exhibited internationally, most recently at Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin (2016) and Stockholm (2015); Peter Blum Gallery, New York (2015), and the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley (2014). He participated in Biennials around the world, among them the 30th São Paulo Biennial in São Paulo (2012), the 7th Gwangju Biennial in South Korea (2008), and the Whitney Biennial (2002). His work can be found in numerous public collections in the United States and Europe, most notably the Berkeley Art Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Moderna Museet, Stockholm. John Zurier has been collaborating with Niels Borch Jensen Editions since 2016.