

DECEMBER 2018  
CHARLES GAINES



NUMBERS AND TREES, TIERGARTEN SERIES 3: TREE #1, APRIL, 2018  
Color aquatint and spitbite aquatint with printed acrylic box. 41 1/4" x 32" x 3 1/2"; Edition of 25



NUMBERS AND TREES, TIERGARTEN SERIES 3: TREE #6, SEPTEMBER, 2018  
Color aquatint and spitbite aquatint with printed acrylic box. 41 1/4" x 32" x 3 1/2"; Edition of 25





NUMBERS AND TREES, TIERGARTEN SERIES 3: TREE #2, MAY, 2018  
Color aquatint and spitbite aquatint with printed acrylic box. 41 ¼" x 32" x 3 ½"; Edition of 25



NUMBERS AND TREES, TIERGARTEN SERIES 3: TREE #4, JULY, 2018  
Color aquatint and spitbite aquatint with printed acrylic box. 41 ¼" x 32" x 3 ½"; Edition of 25



Paulson Fontaine Press is pleased to release four new etchings by Charles Gaines.

This is our first project together and a continuation of his *Numbers and Trees, Tiergarten Series*. Gaines photographs trees from specific locations like Central Park in New York, an orchard in Fresno, and the Tiergarten in Berlin and plots them with numbers and colors, anatomizing them on a grid. The numbers are used as a systematic tool to describe the form and each etching is titled with a different month to highlight the tacit stages.

We created the color grid for each tree by painting individual squares with spitbite acid on a copper plate. The four images are built progressively by layering trees, one on top of the other. The first image is a single tree, followed by two, four and six trees respectively. With each progression, the inks blend to create a prismatic array of color. The clarity of the tonal variation in the first tree is uniquely compelling, as is each individual state of the sequence. A top layer of numbers printed on the face of a plexi box encloses the print. These numbers correspond to the top layered tree on the print behind it, reinforcing its articulation and highlighting the ethereal synthesis of layers.

Charles Gaines is a Los Angeles based artist whose work is rooted in conceptual art. He employs the use of systems, most often in the form of the grid, to make drawings, photographs, and video installations. Committed to conceptual principles, Gaines is one of the few African American artists who worked in this genre during the 1970's, creating a conversation with the practices of Sol LeWitt, Mel Bochner, John Cage and Lawrence Weiner. His exploration of abstraction and aesthetics as means to explore ideas about perception, objectivity, and relationships has influenced a younger generation of artists including: Edgar Arceneaux, Gary Simmons and Mark Bradford.

Recent exhibitions include a survey show titled "Charles Gaines: Gridwork 1974–1989" organized by The Studio Museum in Harlem in 2014 and exhibited at The Hammer Museum in Los Angeles the following year.

Charles Gaines is represented by Hauser & Wirth and Galerie Max Hetzler in Berlin.