

MAY 2022

CHARLES GAINES



Numbers and Trees: Palm Canyon, Palm Trees Series 4, Tree #1-#4, 2021
Color aquatint, spitbite aquatint and chine collé with printed acrylic box. Image Size: 62" x 35" x 3.5" each
Edition of 35

© Charles Gaines
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Photo: Fredrik Nilsen

Paulson Fontaine Press is pleased to announce the release of four new prints with Charles Gaines.

The trees in *Numbers and Trees: Palm Canyon, Palm Trees Series 4*, act as signifiers for a specific place. The trees embody the unique characteristics of the land, climate, and the passage of time. We imagine them to be unbiased repositories for the history that has unfolded around them. Palms, totemic by nature, transmit a quiet dignity, and hold a regal perspective over their habitat.

Gaines' titles for this series include the names of indigenous peoples from Southern California, including the area of Palm Canyon where the palms were photographed. The Tataviam, Kitanemuk, Chumash, and Acjachemen peoples inhabited the region for up to 13,000 years. Gaines' acknowledgment of this fact is but one example of the many considerations existing in these works.

Unpacking the methodology of these serialized depictions of trees, we see that Gaines has invented a system to present objective

information without subjective aesthetic decisions. Reducing visual information to a grid and numeric pattern separates the information into a structure apart from the immediacy of human visual experience.

Reinforcing this construct with an illusion of depth, he uses both a plexiglass box with grid and numbers to reframe the trees, as well as an enlarged palm shape printed beneath a layer of translucent paper on top of which the individual palms are printed. The aggregate of layers makes space for the consideration of multiple modalities.

As the series progresses, trees are layered over each other, and the cumulative data distinguishes the unique and shared characteristics of the individual trees. Colors and silhouettes are variables determined by the goal of emphasizing their unique forms. Despite avoiding subjective choices, the blending and overlapping of contrasting color grids yields surprising aesthetic success.

—Pam Paulson

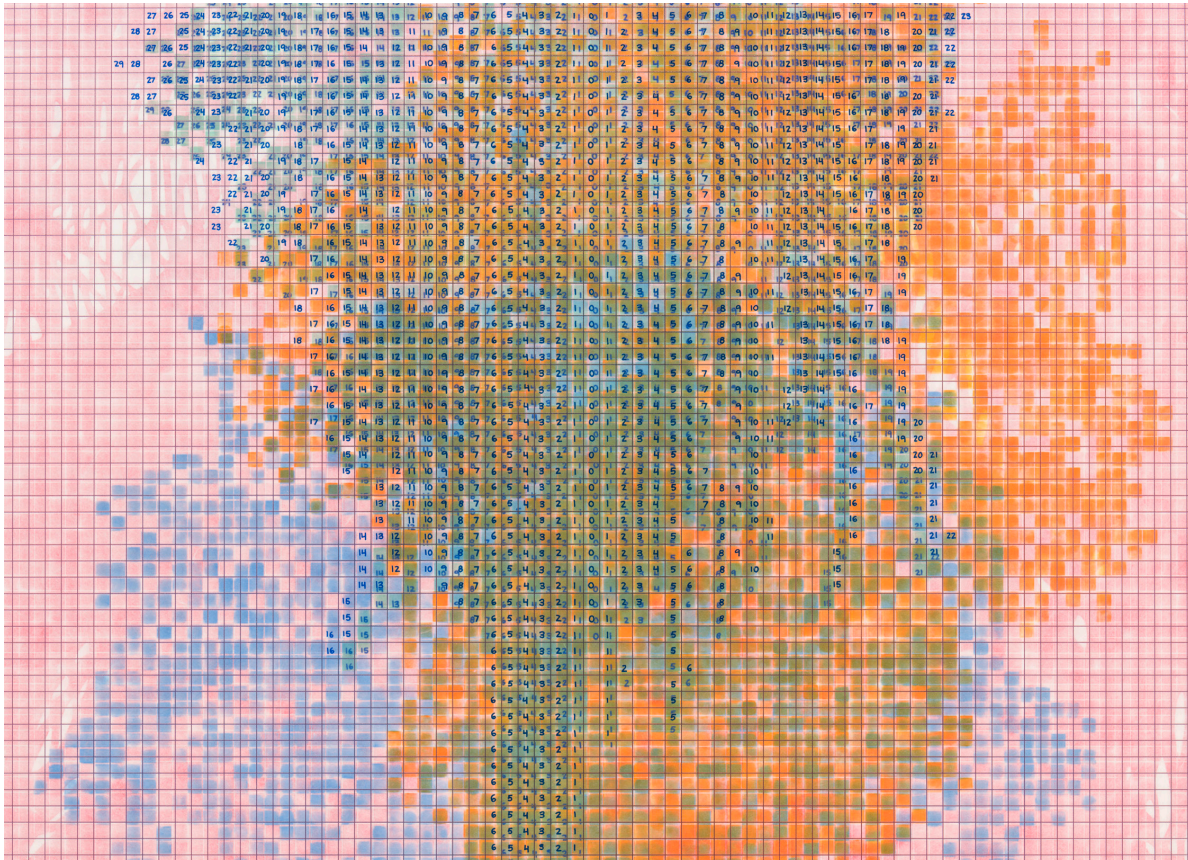


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Numbers and Trees: Palm Canyon, Palm Series 4, Tree #3, Chumash, 2021 (Detail)
Color aquatint, spitbite aquatint and chine collé with printed acrylic box. Image Size: 62" x 35" x 3.5"
Edition of 35



Numbers and Trees: Palm Canyon, Palm Series 4, Tree #1, Tataviam, 2021
Color aquatint, spitbite aquatint and chine collé with printed acrylic box. Image Size: 62" x 35" x 3.5"
Edition of 35



Numbers and Trees: Palm Canyon, Palm Series 4, Tree #2, Kitanemuk, 2021
Color aquatint, spitbite aquatint and chine collé with printed acrylic box. Image Size: 62" x 35" x 3.5"
Edition of 35



Numbers and Trees: Palm Canyon, Palm Series 4, Tree #3, Chumash, 2021
Color aquatint, spitbite aquatint and chine collé with printed acrylic box. Image Size: 62" x 35" x 3.5"
Edition of 35



Numbers and Trees: Palm Canyon, Palm Series 4, Tree #4, Acjachemen, 2021
Color aquatint, spitbite aquatint and chine collé with printed acrylic box. Image Size: 62" x 35" x 3.5"
Edition of 35