



HIGHPOINT CENTER FOR PRINTMAKING

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MEDIA ALERT: For Immediate Release

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Gallery Hours: Mondays – Fridays 10 AM–5 PM, Saturday Noon–4 PM

EXCAVATIONS: THE PRINTS OF JULIE MEHRETU

On View at Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Minneapolis
October 3–November 21

Minneapolis, MN—Highpoint Center for Printmaking is delighted to present *Excavations: The Prints of Julie Mehretu* the first-ever comprehensive exhibition of prints produced by the artist thus far in her career. *EXCAVATIONS* will debut on October 3 during Highpoint's Grand Opening Gala to celebrate its new art center in Minneapolis. *Excavations* is a noteworthy exhibition for print-lovers and Mehretu enthusiasts alike. Accompanying the show is a beautiful, 44-page color catalog with plates of the prints and an essay by Siri Engberg, Curator at the Walker Art Center. Engberg provides detailed descriptions of the prints and processes, and situates them within the context of Mehretu's larger practice. Guests at the Gala will have the opportunity to celebrate in person with Ms. Mehretu and tour Highpoint's new, James Dayton-designed facility. Event tickets will be available beginning September 8.

Mehretu is best known for her large-scale paintings and drawings, which layer maps, urban planning grids and architectural renderings with whorls of abstract markings and bright shapes of color. In her catalog essay, Engberg traces this visual vocabulary back to Mehretu's graduate studies at Rhode Island School of Design, where she first worked with intaglio printmaking and the necessity of breaking imagery down into its component layers. Since that time, the artist has experimented with many processes including chine collé, screenprinting and lithography. Ms. Mehretu has completed collaborative projects at professional printmaking studios across the country, among them Highpoint Editions, where she produced *Entropia (review)* and *Entropia: Construction*. Today, printmaking is a vital part of Mehretu's creative process. Siri Engberg notes in her essay: "The printshop has become a space for examining her body of work and excavating it to create new layers of visual and conceptual meaning."

Highpoint Center for Printmaking is a non-profit art center dedicated to advancing the appreciation and understanding of the printmaking arts. Highpoint offers educational programs for children and adults, a studio cooperative, professional publishing opportunities, and a street-level gallery featuring contemporary prints. No other printmaking center in the Upper Midwest provides such a wide range of public access and programs.

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