

**Julie Mehretu**  
*Two new large-scale etchings*

February 18 - March 31, 2023



*This Manifestation of Historical Restlessness, (from Robin's Intimacy), 2022*  
 10 panel etching/aquatint from 50 plates, overall 93 1/2" x 173 1/8" (237.5 x 439.7 cm), edition of 28

Gemini G.E.L. is pleased to present an exhibition of two new large-scale etchings by Julie Mehretu, on view February 18 through March 31, 2023. An opening reception for the artist will take place on Saturday, February 18 from 6 to 8PM.

The exhibition features two 10-panel aquatint etchings titled *This Manifestation of Historical Recklessness (from Robin's Intimacy)* and *Treatises on the Executed (from Robin's Intimacy)*. The prints are titled after poet Robin Coste Lewis's original poem and installation, *Intimacy*, 2022, commissioned by Mehretu and presented in a collaborative exhibition between the two at Marian Goodman Gallery Paris in 2022.

Each print is comprised of 10 panels, using the same 50 copper plates, and both are monumental in scale, measuring nearly 8 feet by 14 1/2 feet. The project is the result of three years of work by Master printmaker Case Hudson and a team of five etchers. Proofing sessions—periods of experimentation in which the final images get established—began with Mehretu's full month of residence in Los Angeles during October 2019. Throughout the long days and nights of these multi-day sessions, Mehretu pushed herself and the printers to the maximum, demanding no more of her collaborators than she asked of herself.

In their scale, in the arrangement of imagery, and in the printmaking techniques used, these prints are extraordinarily complex. Mehretu initially applied spray paint directly to aquatinted plates to create the bold white strokes that underly the more complex imagery in both works. Continuing using both Mylars and plates, she developed the final imagery digitally in part by working on her computer and determining her desired placement of colors. Hudson and his team located the marks to be printed in each color and, through much experimentation and multiple proofings, mapped out the colors for inking each aquatinted copper plate.

The number of colors on each plate ranges 1 to 12, with an ultimate total of 22 different colors, and there are five layers or sequences of plates for each of the ten panels. Requiring a remarkable amount of respect and collaboration between Mehretu and the printers to achieve the editions, ink was applied to the etching plates “a la poupée,” a technique that requires the hand-application of different ink colors to a single copper plate using a tarlatan pad. In all instances, instead of printing multiple colors—or, in the case of *Treatises on the Executed*, nuanced greys and blacks—via individual copper plates, the delicate application of multiple ink colors onto a single plate results in a gradient of hues that transition as Mehretu’s marks progress through the imagery.

**Julie Mehretu** was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1970 and raised in Michigan. She lives and works in New York. Mehretu was the subject of a mid-career survey exhibition co-organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2019) and the Whitney Museum, New York (2021) that traveled to the High Museum of Art, Atlanta (2020-21) and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2021-22). Her works have been included numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world including: The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010); Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin (2009); Detroit Institute of Art and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek (2007); MUSAC, Léon (2006); St Louis Art Museum (2005); REDCAT, Los Angeles and Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo (2004) and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2003).

In 2005, she received the American Art Award from the Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as the prestigious MacArthur Fellows Award. In 2015 she was awarded the US Department of State Medal of Arts Award. In 2017, a monumental two-part painting, ‘HOWL, eon (I, II)’ commissioned by San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California was commissioned as a major, long-term installation in the lobby of the museum.

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For inquiries, please contact Alex Adcock, at [alex@geminigel.com](mailto:alex@geminigel.com)

Gallery hours: 9 am. – 5 pm., Monday through Friday.

For further information please contact the gallery at: 323-651-0513 or visit [www.geminigel.com](http://www.geminigel.com)