

Zorawar Sidhu & Rob Swainston
Flash Point

March 7 – April 12, 2025
520 W 25th Street

Petzel



Flash Point

Petzel is pleased to present *Flash Point*, an exhibition of prints featuring woodcuts, screenprints, and etchings by New York-based artist duo Zorawar Sidhu and Rob Swainston, opening Friday, March 7, 2025. The show marks Sidhu and Swainston's second exhibition with Petzel, and will be on view through April 12, 2025, at 520 West 25th Street. Presenting three new bodies of work, *Flash Point* represents both social and natural landscapes in the context of climate disaster, political activism, and global events.



History is Present

Their series of large-scale, multi-color woodcut prints on fabric, titled *History is Present*, considers the age of the Anthropocene and the relationship between human impact and shifting natural geographies. Referencing canonical artworks, Sidhu and Swainston lend iconic visual allegories to lasting social conditions and humanitarian issues; for example, their “Raft” depicts contemporary displaced peoples and a history of forced migrations. Made using a custom-built press to accommodate the scale of these works, these monumental woodcut prints demonstrate a mastery of technique and process, with layers of tonal values building complex compositions.



New York; Smoky Day

2023-2025

Multi-color woodcut on fabric

Framed: 78 x 102 1/8 inches

198.1 x 260.4 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/005)



Brownfield

2023-2024

Multi-color woodcut on fabric

Framed: 101 7/8 x 147 3/4 inches

258.8 x 375.3 cm

Edition of 3 + 1 AP

(ZSRS 24/007)



The Parson's Daughter

2023-2025

Multi-color woodcut on fabric

Framed: 78 x 102 1/8 inches

198.1 x 260.4 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/006)





Our House Is on Fire

2023-2025

Multi-color woodcut on fabric

Framed: 101 7/8 x 147 3/4 inches

258.8 x 375.3 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/008)



History is Present, woodcuts in progress



Blue Marble 2312

2023-2024

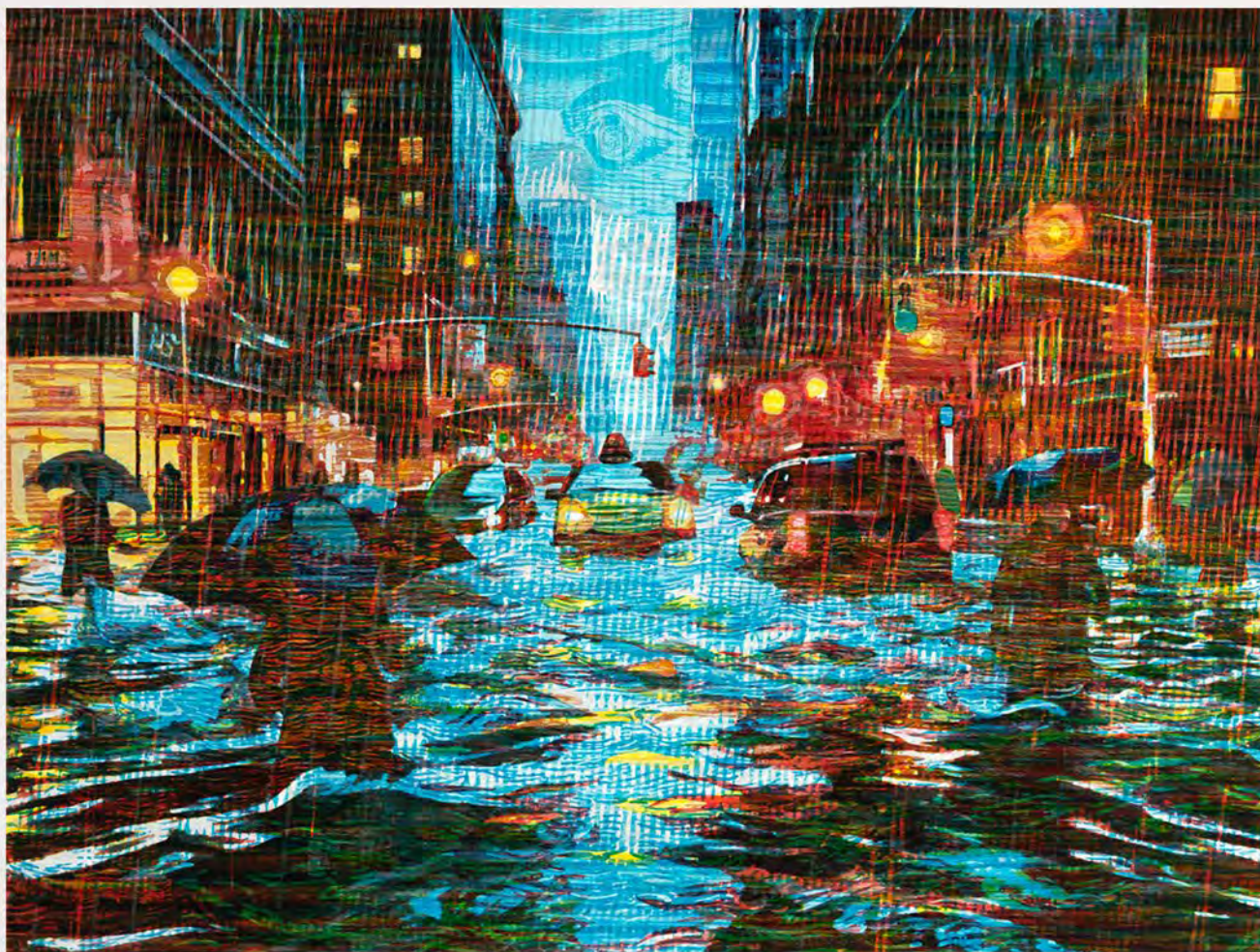
Multi-color woodcut on fabric

Framed: 78 x 102 1/8 inches

198.1 x 260.4 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/001)



New York Street; Rainy Day
2023-2025

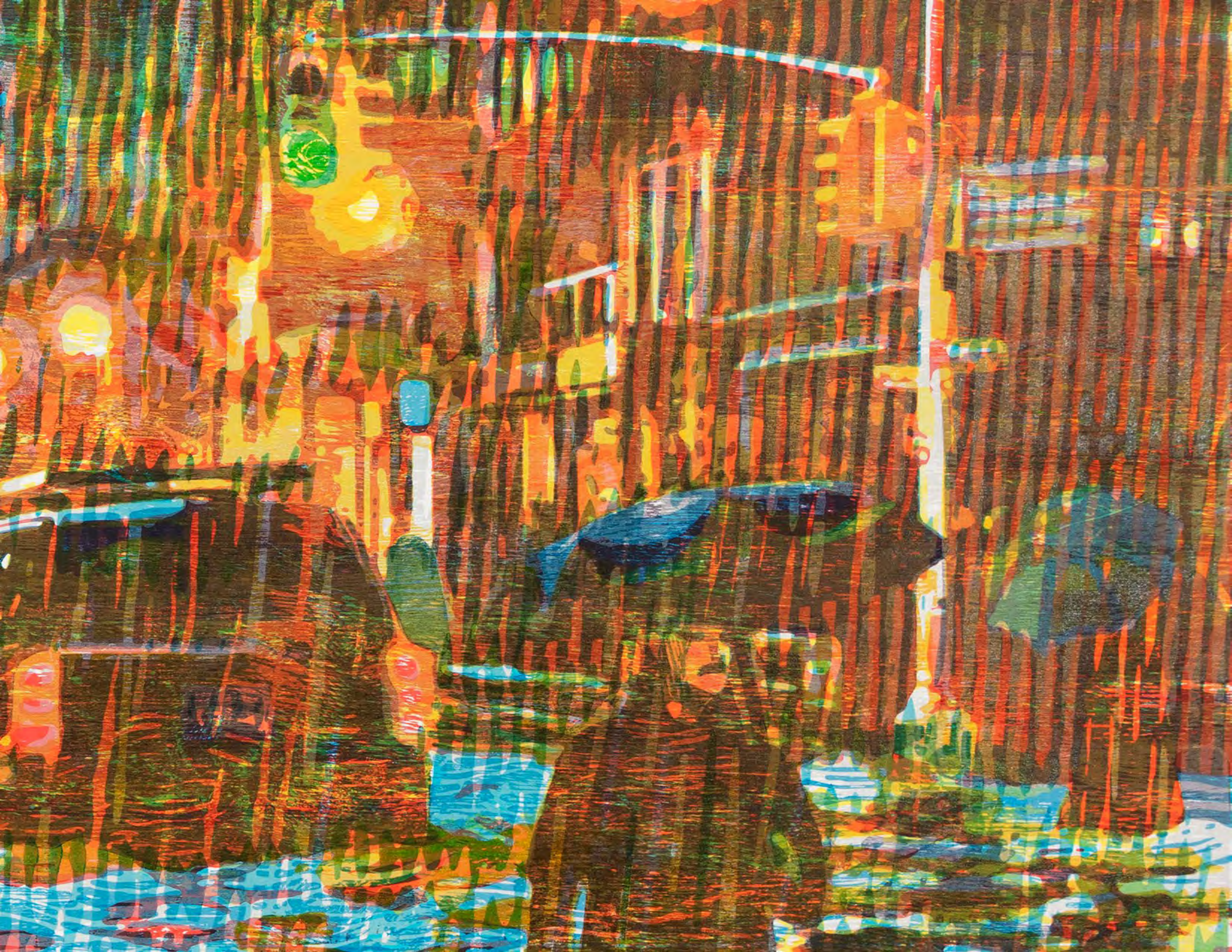
Multi-color woodcut on fabric

Framed: 78 x 102 1/8 inches

198.1 x 260.4 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/004)





From the Living

2023-2024

Multi-color woodcut on fabric

Framed: 78 x 102 1/8 inches

198.1 x 260.4 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/002)



Raft

2023-2024

Multi-color woodcut on fabric

Framed: 78 x 102 1/8 inches

198.1 x 260.4 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/003)

War for the Union

War for the Union features mixed woodcut with silkscreen prints on paper, looking toward distinctly American political issues from recent history. Layered with appropriated images from news media wood engravings of the civil war, such as Winslow Homer's Civil War drawings for *Harper's Weekly*, this series suggests both the cyclical temporality of images in American journalism and a collective fear of a second civil war in our current climate. *War for the Union* depicts scenes from pivotal moments of civil unrest, including demonstrations following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, 2024 pro-Palestinian protests on university campuses, the 2024 Republican and Democratic National Conventions, and the 2017 Charlottesville white supremacist rally. Through rigorous, vibrant layers of figures, rally signs, and geographies, Sidhu and Swainston slow down the processing of mass circulated images, the antithesis to our current barrage of news media.





Portrait of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

2024-2025

Silkscreen and woodcut on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 55 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches / 141.3 x 112.1 cm

Unframed: 52 5/8 x 41 inches / 133.7 x 104.1 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/010)



A Great Encampment

2024-2025

Silkscreen and woodcut on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 55 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches / 141.3 x 112.1 cm

Unframed: 52 5/8 x 41 inches / 133.7 x 104.1 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/012)



Detail: Winslow Homer, *The War for the Union* 1862
A Cavalry Charge, from *Harper's Weekly*, July 5, 1862
 Collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum

A Cavalry Charge
 2024-2025

Silkscreen and woodcut on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 55 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches / 141.3 x 112.1 cm

Unframed: 52 5/8 x 41 inches / 133.7 x 104.1 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/011)



Siege of the Court

2024-2025

Silkscreen and woodcut on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 55 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches / 141.3 x 112.1 cm

Unframed: 52 5/8 x 41 inches / 133.7 x 104.1 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/013)



In the Trenches

2024-2025

Silkscreen and woodcut on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 55 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches / 141.3 x 112.1 cm

Unframed: 52 5/8 x 41 inches / 133.7 x 104.1 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/014)



War for the Union, woodcuts in progress



A Great Meeting in Support of the Government
2024-2025

Silkscreen and woodcut on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 55 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches / 141.3 x 112.1 cm

Unframed: 52 5/8 x 41 inches / 133.7 x 104.1 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/015)





At the Fence

2024-2025

Silkscreen and woodcut on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 55 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches / 141.3 x 112.1 cm

Unframed: 52 5/8 x 41 inches / 133.7 x 104.1 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/016)



A Bayonet Charge

2024-2025

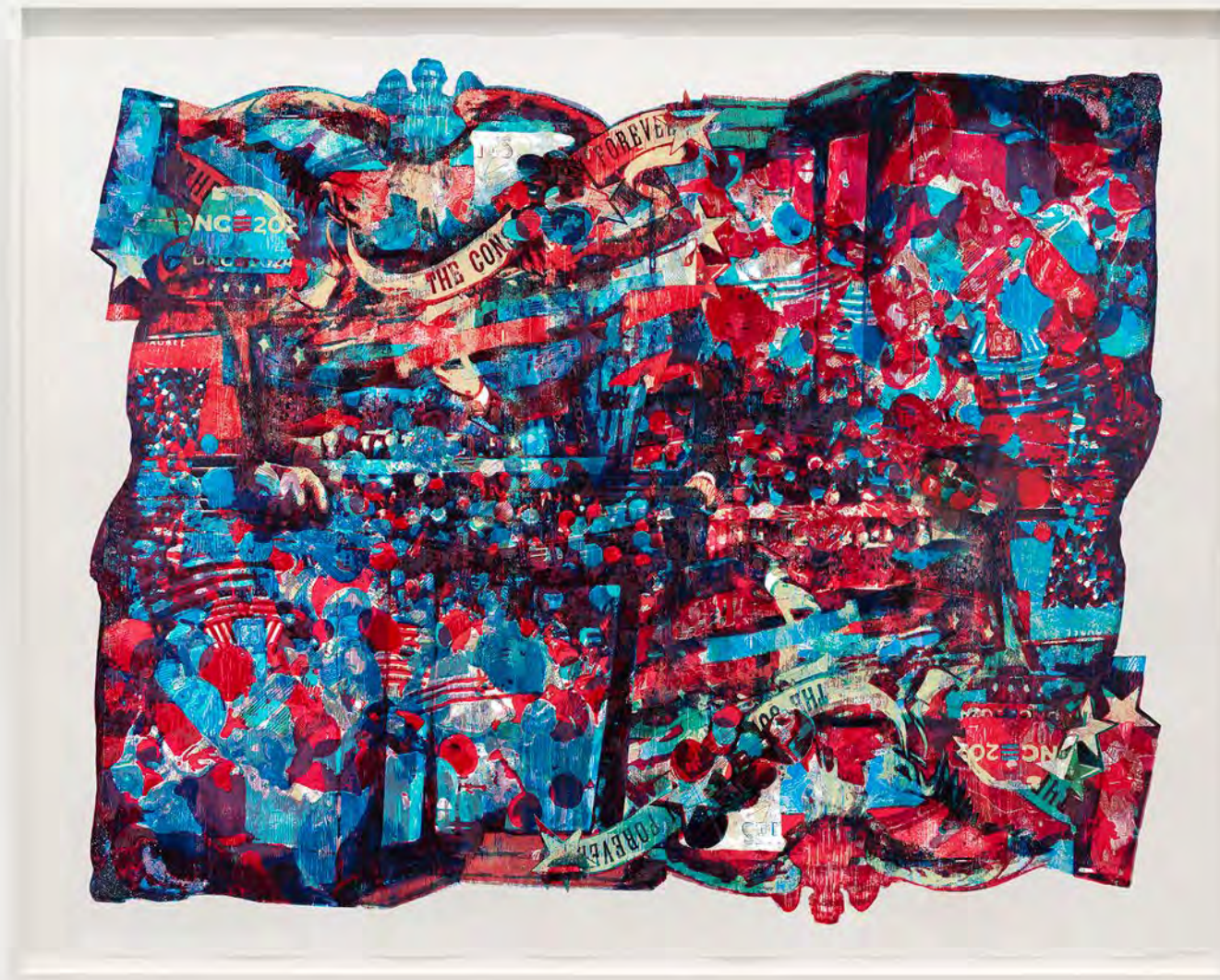
Silkscreen and woodcut on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 55 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches / 141.3 x 112.1 cm

Unframed: 52 5/8 x 41 inches / 133.7 x 104.1 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP

(ZSRS 24/017)



Balloon View of Washington
2024-2025

Silkscreen and woodcut
on Coventry Rag paper

Framed: 54 7/8 x 68 1/2 inches
139.4 x 174 cm

Unframed: 52 x 65 1/2 inches
132.1 x 166.4 cm

Edition of 7 + BAT and 2 AP
(ZSRS 25/001)

Spring Wake

The third series, a group of color etchings made in collaboration with the Columbia University Neiman Center for Print Studies titled *Spring Wake*, highlights environmental issues in various regions, rendering signposts of protest with native plants of the respective terrain. For example, “Japanese Lily” layers images of activists protesting the radioactive water released from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea, while “Fairy Primrose” depicts protests of the ecocide resulting from the ongoing Ukraine War—each indigenous flora overlaid atop the local environmental threat. Bearing an almost documentarian quality, these prints link political turmoil and climate disaster intimately with the depicted landscapes.





Spring Wake

2025

Full edition of 8 etchings on Hahnemühle paper

Each framed: 22 1/4 x 19 1/2 inches / 56.5 x 49.5 cm

Each unframed: 13 5/8 x 11 inches / 34.6 x 27.9 cm

Edition of 20 + BAT and 8 AP

(ZSRS 25/003)



STOP
ecocide in
UKRAINE

ecocide
IN
UKRAINE



About the Artists

Zorawar Sidhu & Rob Swainston, both living and working in New York City, are a collaborative art duo exploring the intersection of historical print processes with contemporary technologies. Their projects investigate the complexities of contemporary social issues by drawing from the history of print as the medium par excellence of social movements. They have exhibited together at the Hall Art Foundation, Reading (2024); University at Buffalo Anderson Gallery, Buffalo (2024); Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin (2024); Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, Portland (2023); Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington, Arlington (2023); The Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum, Miami (2023); Syracuse University Art Museum, Syracuse (2023); United States Department of State, Washington, D.C. (2023); Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton (2023); among others.

Sidhu and Swainston's collaborative work is included in the collections of the Art Museum of West Virginia University, Morgantown; Hall Collection, Reading; Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, Portland; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin; and the Syracuse University Art Museum, Syracuse.