

Project Statement: Minor Geographies at the Palace Hotel

I began the year as a Guest Artist at the Swatch Art Peace Hotel in Shanghai, China. This work is a response to the building that the residency is housed in, the historic Palace Hotel. During Swatch's recent renovation of the building much of the original brick was exposed revealing the scars and patches that had occurred over time. The 100+ year old walls form a new geography, a reading of time, place, and space. I photographed the patches and assigned colors and focuses to reference the earth's skin, an imagined geography. The reading of the space is also about its function, a gathering spot for artists from around the world, each coming from a certain place (or places), each traveling from one geography to the next, each engaged in a process of sorting between what is familiar and what is dis-similar.

The images play with a variety of shapes and forms that stem from printmaking traditions, cartography, and contemporary information access.

- World Map Projections: ways in which we have tried to use flat, two-dimensional maps to represent a sphere. The projections reveal how we privilege place, where maps are focused shows value intent. Many of the Projections attempt to find a way to equalize geographic value.
- Map Pin: recently a ubiquitous symbol, the digital map pin was based on the physical map pin of an earlier era. It indicates a specific location and how we access the information, via the internet. I have merged the map pin with the Eye-of-God motif, playing off the ease in which we can watch or be watched.
- Signature Chops: printmaking originated in China and carried on the tradition of the chop, a marker that may indicate the maker, the place, the owner or the meaning. I introduce the QR code as a contemporary form of the chop - the QR code takes you to my website, who made it. The other chops include the Swiss Cross and the Palace Hotel seal, indicating where it was made and the patron.

