



Julie Escoffier *Ellipsis*, solo show at EFRAIN LOPEZ GALLERY, 2016

Through her ephemeral and highly situational works, Julie Escoffier achieves a seemingly impossible feat: producing sculptural objects through photographic techniques. The results of her experimental research into the material possibilities of chemical and organic compounds, including mineral salts, acids, iodine, and sulfur derivatives yield miniature topographies of iridescent crystals, sculpted by the elements' reactions to light itself. Her site-specific installations transform exhibition spaces into camera obscura, as ambient light causes a darkening chemical blush to spread across photosensitized panels over time. Sculptures cast in plaster and washed with organic dyes gradually fade in the sun. In a digital age in which photography is considered primarily as a means of capturing an image, and the alchemical magic of analogue photography is scarcely considered at all, Escoffier exposes the astonishing nonmimetic potential of chemical photographic processes. Accepting the help of natural forces in giving form to her work, Escoffier serenely allows the processes of decomposition and disappearance that these forces also effect to shape her output. Against the grain of sculptural traditions that emphasize solidity and permanence, Escoffier's work embodies fleetingness and fragility.