



Kristin Bly

legend

ongoing drawing series
variable dimensions

legend is a collection of drawings where found maps are meticulously and formulaically stripped of all text and number characters through a process of darkened deletion. In addition to any metaphoric implications that can be read into this process, one conceptual intention is to somewhat undermine the oft-inflated notion of intuition. Because, in these works, a composition that appears instinctive and abstract is more the result of predetermined guidelines (any complete grid where a text character exists is fully blackened). This conceptual meddling not only compromises the intended utility of the map, but also reworks the usual framework of composing and orchestrating abstraction by applying strict procedures to the process. Some introspection does surface during the selection of a particular map chosen for deletion. And, because this decision is not random, the selection process becomes an almost stripped down moment of perceptual foresight—the moment of seeing the abstraction through the formula. Even here, though, certain rules apply, as I tend to stay away from broader, more obvious geographic depictions. The works are not intended to be hidden messages of location and travel, or topographic brainteasers. Ultimately, these drawings are meant to be somewhat beautiful fields of color, pattern, and shifting planes—albeit a beauty derived from a recipe intended to challenge conventional notions of aesthetic decision-making.



left: *legend 23*, 2007, 42 x 42"

above: *legend 24*, 2007, 3 x 6"

next page: *legend 25*, 2007, 20 x 13"

