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Indiscrete Exposure

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Catherine M.C. Closet

Drawings, a public display

Exhibition.
Revealing, showing, exposing to view and at the same time wanting to hide.
Is enough revealed to seduce the eye?
Is enough concealed to keep that desire alive?
I am searching, but can I even reveal What? to my self?
Exhibition.
How much Exposure?
So much indiscretion.
Drawing, a solitary search.

Leaving a mark, a scratch, a scar on paper—layering on a surface, charcoal powder, tears of ink, any substance that covers the supporting surface. In order to reveal the image, first conceal the support, the vehicle—while the image takes form the drawing reveals itself; it is no more a mere reflection or a captured image of the reality—the drawing takes on a life of its own. The medium has claimed both the paper and the image.

Making love to the drawing; letting the hand be guided by the sensuality of a curve, letting the eye be charmed by the grain of the drawing, its texture, discovering birthmarks, scars, seams.

What is a beautiful drawing? It is a new idea. A drawing that bares the marks of its making, revealing the process of its birth, the transformation accompanying its coming into being. What it will be is better and more beautiful than what we wanted it to be, than what it was planned to be.

About Beautiful Lines: the marks of a sure hand—harmony with a mind reconciled with its body and the rest of the world, at peace. A busy line: a labyrinth of interlaced, intertwined, entwined lines, a pile of lines like Ariane’s thread leading to your heart of the drawing, its essence. A search for form, a search for pleasure—a caress—the line as manifestation of a passionate frenzy: going over and over again following a different path, sketching a form, an outline, indistinct, un-precise, coming slowly in focus as the hand finally discovers that perfect curve, that beautiful smooth curve—only after teasing the idea of the drawing, attentive to responses by the medium. Lines as both a means of inquiry and a means of expression of the discovered. Line as trace evidence of a process. Are we able to reveal for ourselves what we are searching?