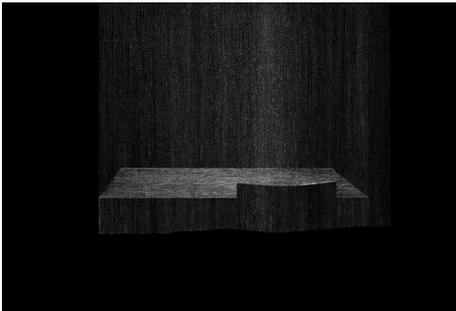


Marta Lech: linocuts

Winner of the Clifford
Chance Purchase Prize
at the International Print
Biennale

7 November-16 December
2011



Artist:	Marta Lech
Title:	3.06
Date:	2010
Medium:	linocut

At the **International Print Biennale** in Newcastle, Clifford Chance presented Marta Lech with their Purchase Prize as the most distinctive printmaker in the exhibition. The Print Biennale is a global open-entry, selected exhibition that celebrates the making of limited edition prints. The second Biennale runs to 19 November 2011 in various venues across Newcastle.

The relief print is one of the earliest forms of printmaking, dating back, in Europe, to the 13th century. At its heart lies a magical transformation - light is literally created out of darkness. The surface of the printing block carries the black ink, and where the artist makes their cuts, the white of the paper shows through, unlinked but defining the image. A reverse process that challenges an artist to work in the dark, the final image unseen until the cutting is completed and printed. An error impossible to remedy.

Marta Lech, born in 1979 in Wroclaw where she continues to live, has made a series of relief prints over the last few years that not only demonstrate immense skill and vision, but also unveils a connectivity with the relief process that is almost uncanny – her images cannot be imagined to be realised in any other medium, or to such powerful effect.

We are delighted to be able to show her linocuts at Clifford Chance, their first ever showing in London. The work, the depiction of light falling onto an object, seems to be simplicity itself, economically expressed, but it transports the viewer to reverie. To thoughts about the passage of time – the length taken to cut each ray; the slow, methodical nature of the making of the image – and to the essential solidity of a form defined by light. Photographic images of objects in a domestic space are transformed by Lech into essays of metaphor.

'...blackness is the most natural space for me to begin my artistic creation, Thus linocut has become my favourite graphic medium. The technique is very simple. There is a cut on a plain. There is pure white or pure black'.

<http://martalech.wordpress.com/>

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