

Wingate Studio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walton Ford

Wingate Studio is pleased to announce its fifteenth collaboration with artist Walton Ford entitled *Granary*. Working with master printers Peter Pettengill and James Pettengill at Wingate Studio, Ford used the traditional techniques of line etching, hard and soft ground, aquatint, spit bite, sugar lift, and drypoint to create this print. *Granary* is a follow-up to Ford's *Calafia* series, in which the artist explores California's myth, folklore, and cinematic history. The print depicts crimson-capped Acorn Woodpeckers guarding their cache of acorns as the Hollywood Hills—and the famed Stahl House—are threatened by wildfire. The thrifty avians are tolerant of humans and can store up to 60,000 acorns in a single hoard, even using telephone poles and fence posts to house their provisions.

At first glance, Ford's large-scale, highly detailed watercolors and etchings of animals recall the prints of 19th-century illustrators John James Audubon and Edward Lear. A closer look reveals a complex and disturbingly anthropomorphic universe, full of symbols, sly jokes, and allusions to the 'operatic' quality of traditional natural history.

In this stunning but sinister visual universe, beasts and birds are not mere aesthetic objects but dynamic actors in allegorical struggles: a wild turkey crushes a small parrot in its claw; a troupe of monkeys wreaks havoc on a formal dinner table; an American buffalo is surrounded by bloodied white wolves. In dazzling watercolor, the images impress as much for their impeccable realism as they do for their complex narratives.

Granary, an edition of 100, was printed by hand on 100% cotton archival-quality Rives BFK paper, using a French-made Le Deuil etching press. Each print is numbered and signed by the artist.

Walton Ford, born 1960, studied filmmaking at the Rhode Island School of Design, but soon realized he was a painter. For the last 20 years he has been creating large-scale narrative watercolors, and etchings in collaboration with Wingate Studio. His work has been widely exhibited, including solo shows at the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin and the Brooklyn Museum in New York.

Granary is available as part of an Art Edition published by TASCHEN, featuring a leather-bound fourth edition of Ford's monograph *Pancha Tantra*. The full Art Edition may be purchased through TASCHEN at <https://bit.ly/taschenarteditiongranary>. The print without the monograph can be purchased through Wingate Studio.

To inquire or place an order please contact us.