

Wingate Studio



*Killy, 2019
six plate aquatint etching
dry point, hard ground and
spit bite, plate size 20 x 15
inches, paper size 29.5 x 22.5
inches, edition of 65*

Walton Ford

The American Kestrel was formerly known throughout the United States as the Sparrow Hawk. The kestrel feeds on other birds, mice, reptiles, and insects. In 1895, Frank M. Chapman wrote in his Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America: “The Sparrow Hawk’s call is a rather high, quickly repeated killy-killy-killy-killy, which in some sections gives it the name of ‘Killy Hawk’.” (p.211)

Ford recalls a kestrel that would roost on the clothesline tower outside of his Brooklyn apartment window many years ago, and every afternoon the bird would eat an English sparrow. He noted, “I’m pretty sure that this was the bird’s only meal; that the hunt took very little effort; and that the rest of the bird’s day would be spent resting, or quietly soaring around the neighborhood. In creating this print, I got to thinking what it would be like if a sparrow hawk had the kind of greed and attachment to material things that humans have.”

Walton Ford lives and works in New York, NY, and his work is included in a number of private and public collections, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Ford’s midcareer retrospective traveled from the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum Fur Gegenwart in Berlin to the Albertina in Vienna, and to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark in 2010-11. Ford was recently the subject of a solo exhibition at the Musee de la Chasse, Paris. Taschen has issued three editions of his large-format monograph, Pancha Tantra.

Wingate Studio is based in the Connecticut River Valley, and under directors Peter and James Pettengill and Alyssa Robb, the Studio produces and publishes printed editions, books, and special projects with contemporary artists. Peter Pettengill and Walton Ford have been working together for over 20 years.

To inquire or place an order please contact us.