



Fran Siegel, "Bridge 01," pigment, ink, graphite & cyanotype on cut and collaged paper, 82 x 109 in., 2016

FRAN SIEGEL: RECONSTRUCTION

by Ezra Jean Black ·

ACME.

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As our planet is gradually warmed and transformed into landscapes and environments once conceivable only in nightmare fantasy, we find ourselves preoccupied with our apprehension and perception of a world we've effectively made over – so bound up with our physical extension into it. These preoccupations are more or less encompassed in Fran Siegel's recent body of work currently on view at **ACME Gallery**. The title, *Reconstruction*, alludes as much to intellectual and psychological as physical process. Landscape, no less than mapping, is a device for Siegel – a way to see over and through our unconscious projections into the physical world. She breaks down the methodology of our projection and reimagining into a kind of engineering grammar: contraption; apparatus; renovation; bridge. (*Apparatus 03* features a pair of satellite towers.) Siegel is trying to merge the conscious and willfully imagined (or its symbolic equivalent – the 'landscapes' are far from literal) with physical actuality. Just as the most panoptic view effectively weaves together several angles of vision, Siegel literally re-weaves pieces of her fragmented, sedimentary 'bird's-eye'/aerial' landscape into the abstracted *Overland 18*. It's a bit of work to 'connect the dots'; and Siegel has ambitiously reached well beyond our overloaded grid.