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Electrography

Electrography is a collection of apparent abstract photographs printed on aluminum. However, these non-representational images cannot truly be called photographs, for they were created without a lens and in the absence of light. These images are the result of static electricity buildup on the sensor of a digital camera. The images were produced in total darkness under conditions designed to maximize digital noise—high ISO sensitivity, very long exposure time, and using an older camera with a cropped sensor. When the shutter is open for longer periods of time, static electricity accumulates on the sensor. In the same way the camera processes photons into an electrical signal, the static is interpreted as an image.

Using digital editing software, the image exposure was artificially increased to bring out as much of the captured information as possible. *Electrography #1* is minimally processed, keeping its native colors intact, while the mottled look of *#2* is the result of manipulating additional data in the camera raw file. The presentation of these images reflects their creation: printed directly on the surface of a rectangular aluminum plate, like static charges accumulating on a sensor.

This method of creating a pseudo-photographic image through electricity alone could be considered a digital succession of Kirlian photography, a process that uses electrically charged plates to generate visualizations of coronal discharges on film. Furthermore, *Electrography* continues a long history of using unusual processes to explore what can be defined as photography. Created with a camera yet without light, *Electrography* declares not the death of photography, but the end.