



# PETER EASTMAN

## Coldstream

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**smac**

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# PETER EASTMAN

## Coldstream

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*Winter has the lowest rainfall.*

*When I arrive at the river, descending steeply from the forest into the narrow creek, it is barely flowing.*

*The trees that make up this forest – Stinkwoods, Wild Pear, Ironwoods and Yellowwood – have tiny leaves. The light catching these small leaves creates a unique light, a fine dusting of millions of points reflected.*

*There is no green light, only grey.*

*In the studio, mixing grey: Lemon yellow, Prussian blue, Van dyke brown.*

*Cool grey, Warm grey.*

*Transparent scarlet lakes. Cadmium orange and red.*

*Immediacy and reflection,*

*Attention and immersion,*

*A seeming contradiction, this shaded place is where I paint light.*

*The pools are still and cold. Walking through the water, waist deep, the ripples are smooth undulations. They stretch, distort and tear. A veneer. Broken reality.*

– Peter Eastman

SMAC Gallery Johannesburg is pleased to present *Coldstream*, Peter Eastman's eighth solo exhibition and his third with SMAC. Comprising of a series of new oil on aluminium paintings, the exhibition depicts Eastman's characteristically pensive and atmospheric forest-scapes. These quiet compositions, poised somewhere between figurative and abstract, are suffused with opaque moods and a sense of dreamlike memory.

Drawn from the Knysna forest region near Plettenberg Bay, South Africa – where Eastman's familial retreat, Deep Chine, is located – the emphasis of these woodland scenes is on an accurate depiction of light and its changing qualities, rather than dutifully referencing the geographical location. The artist deconstructs images of Deep Chine's river, pools, and tall crumbling sandstone cliffs, reconstituting them to form altogether new representations.

Emollient and meditative, *Coldstream* features a selection of works where Eastman's focus on the shifting qualities of light and reflection has expanded. His integration of movement highlights these elements as an intrinsic part of human perception and experience.

The palette is reduced to two colours - one dark, evoking shade; and one light, picking out the "fine dusting of millions of points" of sunlight, stippling the foliage, branches and rocks. Eastman's skilful chiaroscuro is almost xerographic, yet remains both painterly and expressive. His practice can be described as a form of contemporary impressionism, characterised by small but visible brush strokes, broad compositions and unusual visual angles.

Eastman sees the wood for the trees, as per the English idiom, executing his paintings in meticulous detail and with such anti-naturalistic colours that they almost deny the image's genesis in landscape.

There is a particular conservation in Eastman's representation, depicting only that which is necessary to define the scene. His paintings are peppered with dexterous dashes of paint, defining the woodland scenes that seem to dissolve into abstraction the moment they are viewed from up close. Through an ongoing investigation into the quality of light, *Coldstream* extends Eastman's practice in controlled, painterly experimentation in both subtle and visually arresting ways.

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Born in 1976 in Newcastle, UK, Eastman currently lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2003, he was selected as a finalist for the ABSA L'Atelier award and in 2005, participated in the Sasol New Signatures exhibition. His first solo presentation titled, *Reflective*, was held at Stevenson, Cape Town in 2004. Later solo exhibitions include *Supernature* (2008) and *Life is Short* (2010) both at Whatiftheworld Gallery, Cape Town. 2015 saw Eastman's seventh solo exhibition, *Surface Light*, since the start of his career in 2001 and follows on from the great success of his *Deep Chine* exhibition presented at SMAC Gallery in 2014.

Eastman has also participated in numerous local and international art fairs and group exhibitions including, among others: the Realisme Art Fair in Amsterdam (2007); VOLTA5 in Basel (2009); *Africa, Assume Art Position!* at Primo Marella Gallery in Milano, Italy in (2010); Museum of African Design (2013); as well as the Cape Town Art Fair and FNB Johannesburg Art Fair, both in 2016. SMAC Gallery has featured Eastman's work in several exhibitions, including: *PAINT I, Contemporary South African Painting 2002-2012* (2012); *BACK TO THE FUTURE Abstract Art in South Africa: Past and Present* (2013) and Upstart/Startup in 2016.

*Coldstream* is Eastman's eighth solo exhibition to date and his third with SMAC Gallery, presented at SMAC Gallery Johannesburg (02.03.17 – 01.04.17).

## Peter Eastman

*Coldstream I*  
2012  
Oil on Aluminium  
175 x 150 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Coldstream II*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
185 x 150 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Coldstream III*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
185 x 150 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Coldstream IV*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
185 x 150 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Coldstream V*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
185 x 150 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Coldstream VI*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
185 x 150 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Flood III*

2015

Oil on Aluminium

200 x 200 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream I*  
2016  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream II*  
2016  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

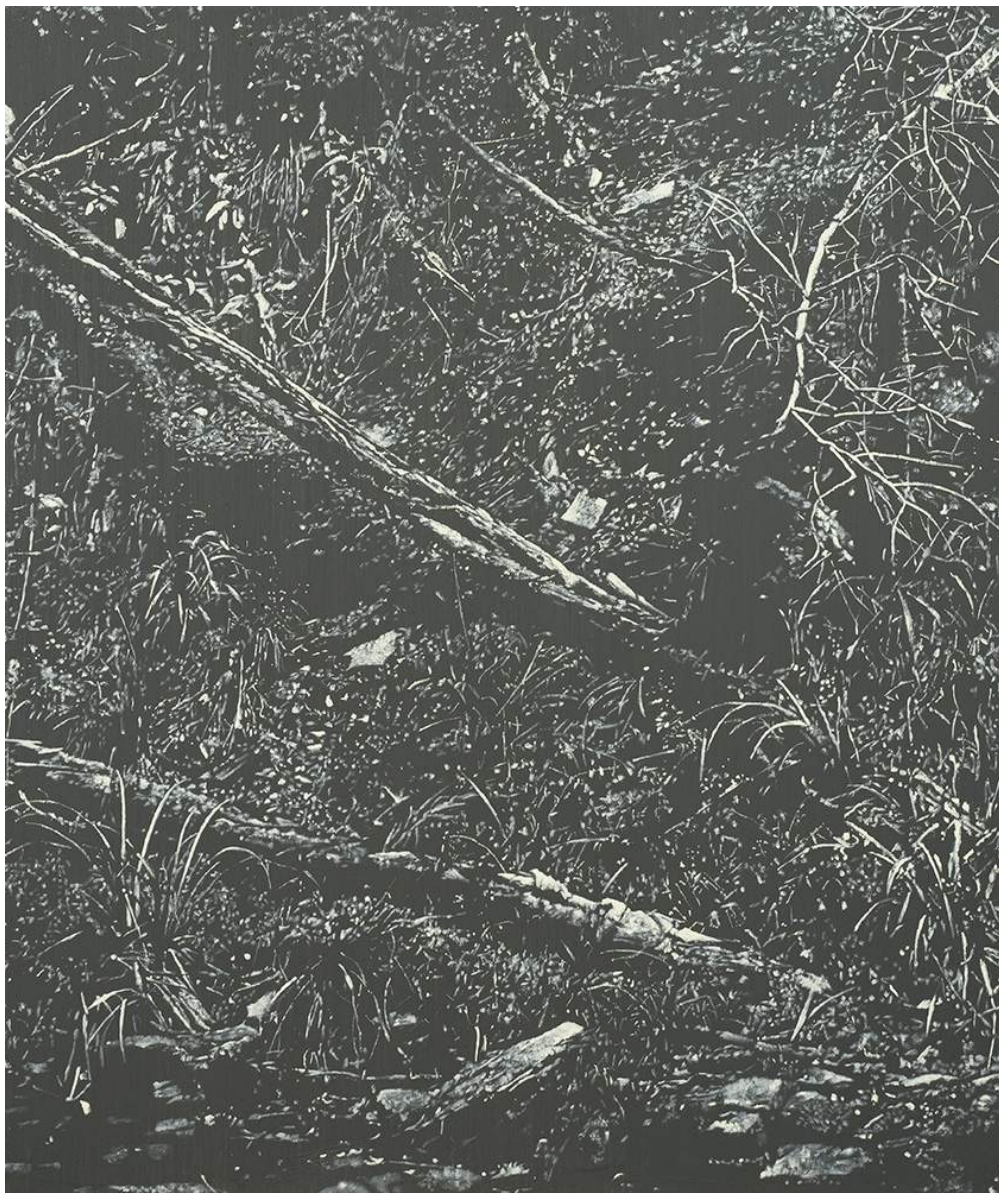
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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream III*  
2016  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

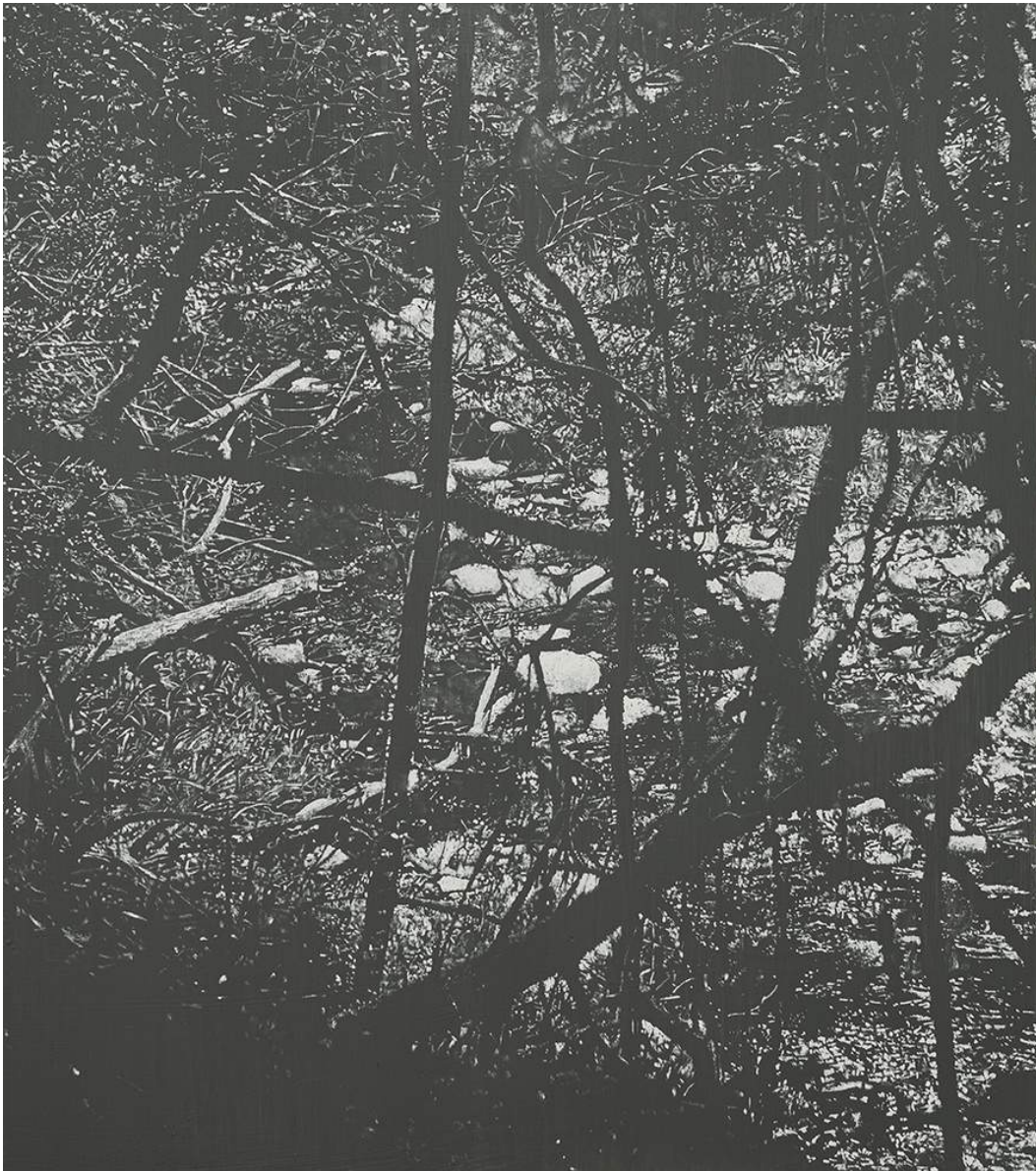
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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream IV*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

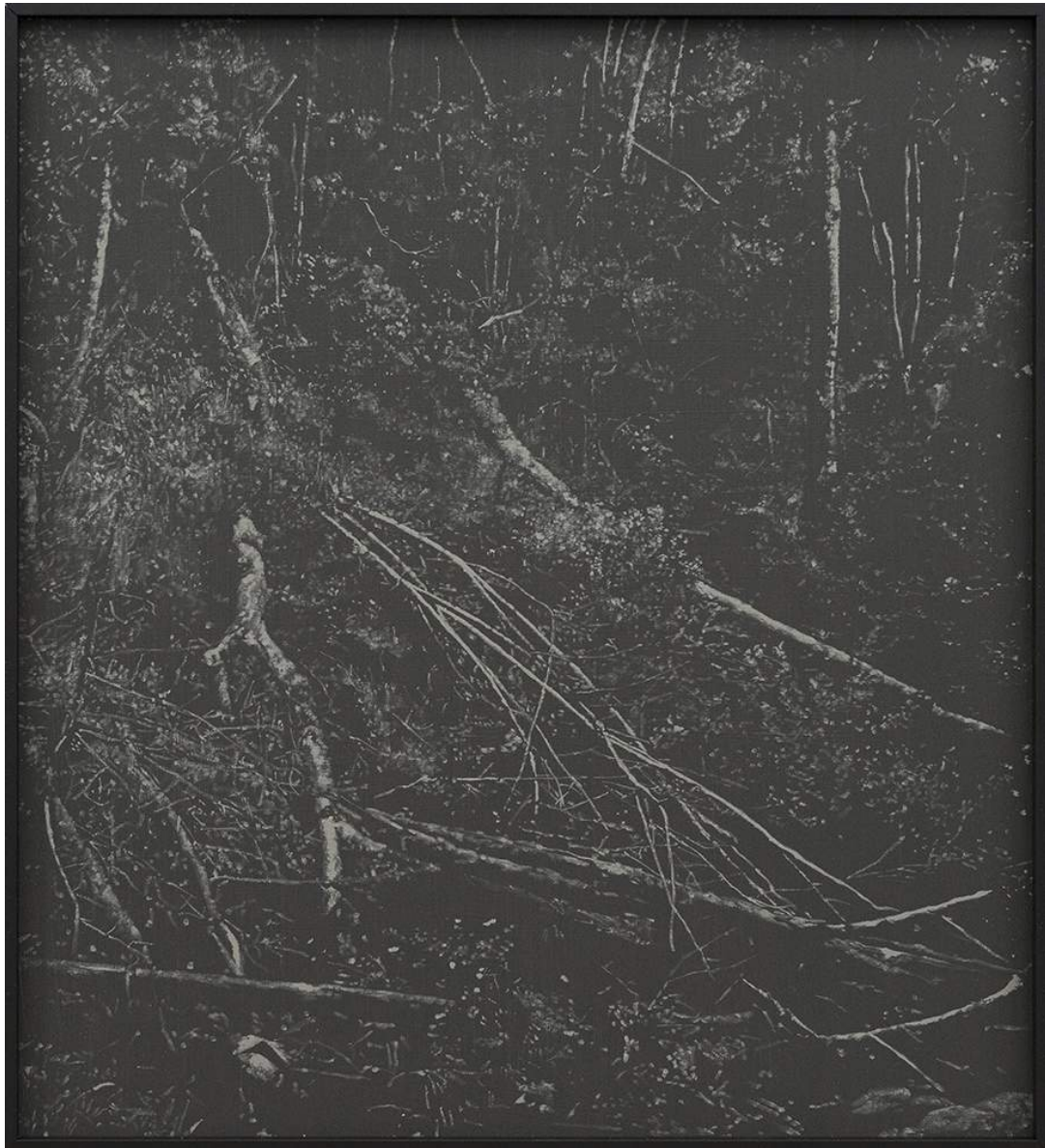
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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream V*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream VI*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream VII*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream VIII*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 35 cm

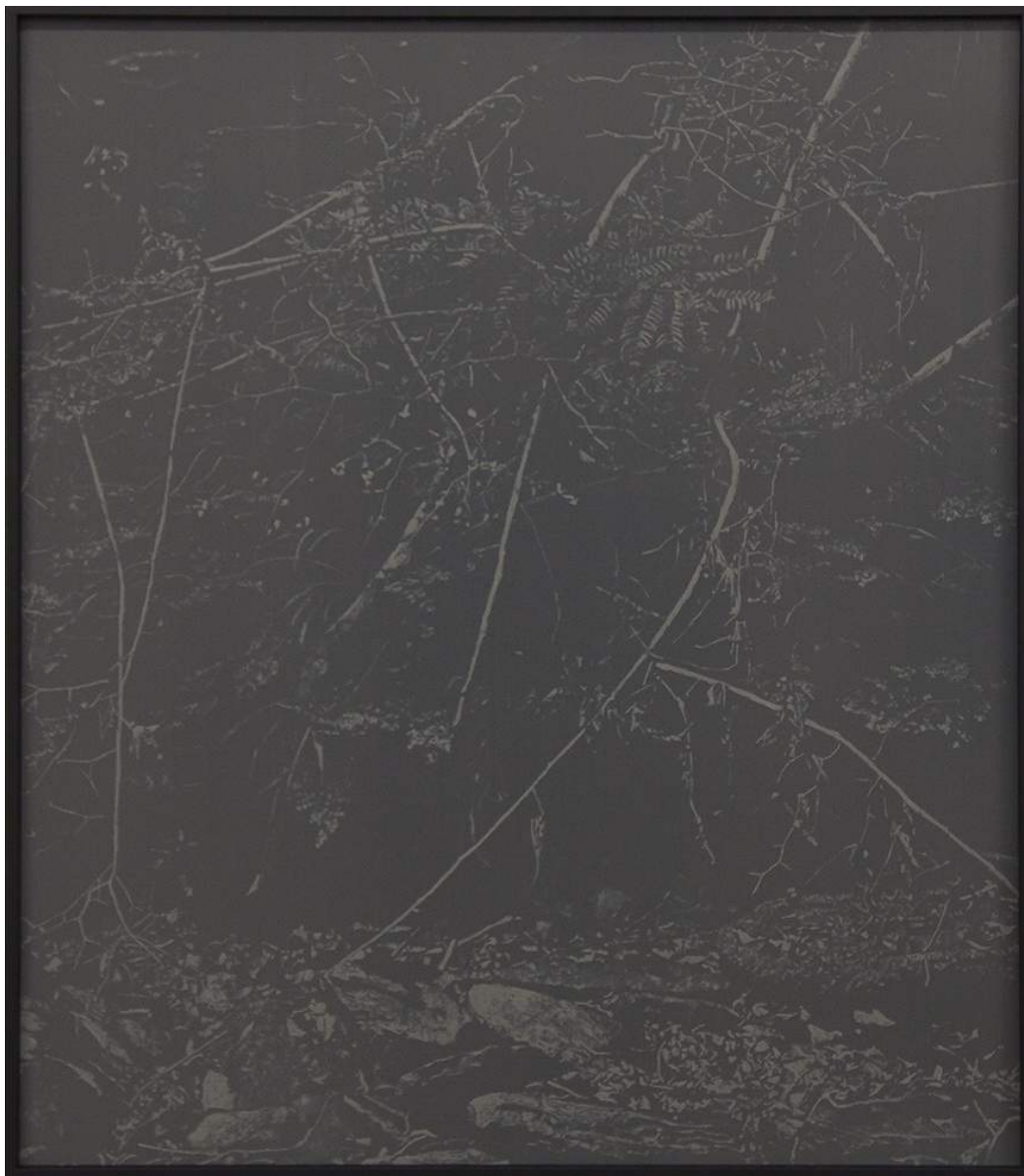
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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream IX*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream X*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

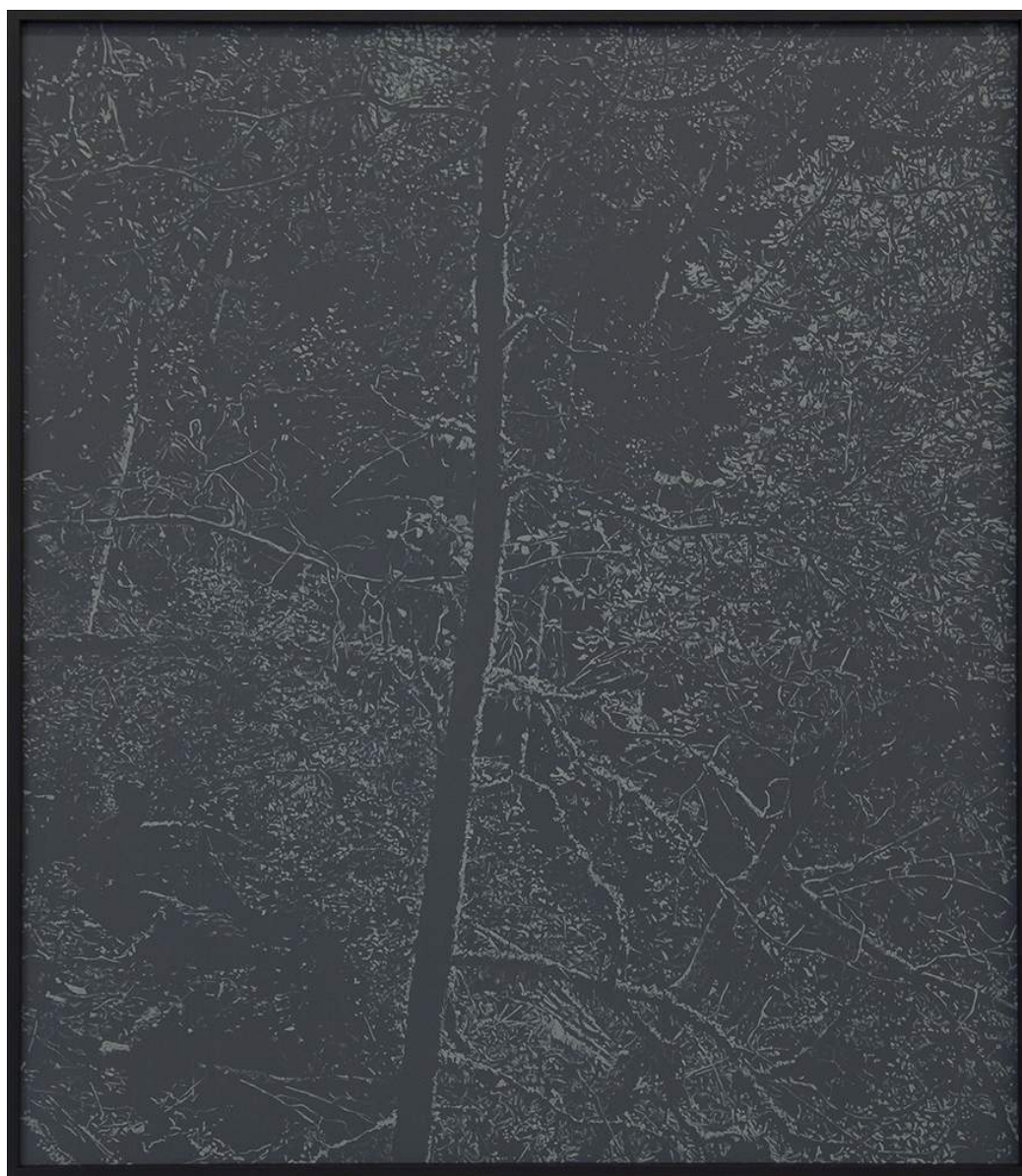
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## Peter Eastman

*Deep Chine - Coldstream XI*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

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## Peter Eastman

*Deep chine - Coldstream XII*  
2017  
Oil on Aluminium  
40 x 34 cm

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