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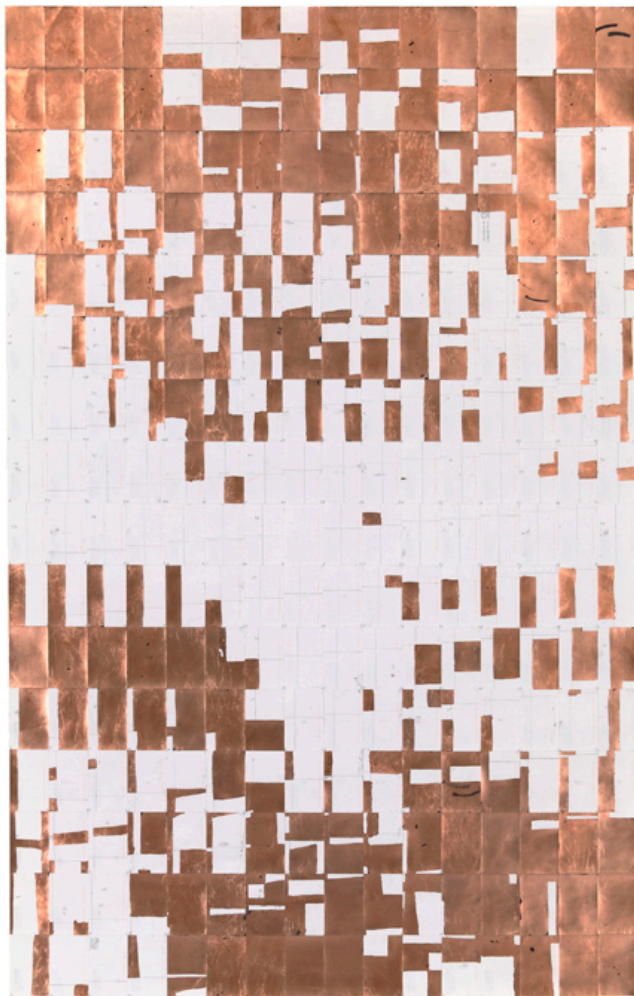
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HUFFPOST ARTS & CULTURE

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Haiku Reviews: From Alfred Hitchcock To Asian Fairy Tales (PHOTOS, VIDEOS)



Agnes Lux, #L-2, postcards, graphite and copper, 56 x 88 1/4 inches

Agnes Lux has generated an entire body of work, gorgeous and mysterious, from a modern and personal system of encryption, invented during World War II, whose key was forgotten by its deviser. Attaching myriad postcards together in large, free-hanging sheets,

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Lux builds dense, elaborate rectilinear fields of positive and negative areas out of copper leaf (whose reflective surface further perturbs the eye). The more patterned, repetitive fields take on the rhythms of film strips, while the more expansive, eccentric compositions hover between suggestions of architectural detail and the deceptive asymmetries of written notation. The encryption system from which Lux has generated these works was derived from a single line in a poem by a mid-19th century Italian romantic writer, so their own provocative sense of inflection, always promising to unpack the source code but in fact deflecting attention away from the source, is highly appropriate, as art and as espionage. Not that Lux's assembled sheets have served a sinister purpose, but the cards comprising them were apparently sent by the artist to herself through the US postal service. If so, Mail Art has reached new heights of sophistication. (Jose Martos, 540 West 29th St., NY; closed. www.martosgallery.com)

- Peter Frank