



Sarah Francis, *Zirahuén*, 2011, Ink and silverleaf on cotton, abaca and sabai, screenprint, 11" x 34.5"

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Many of my works relate to specific locations, and many of those locations center around water. To me, the water represents a ritual cleansing power—it serves to wash away any impurities, and, in a sense, gives one the power to begin anew. In this piece, I represent a particular location in Mexico, one I am continually drawn to. I have been told that Lake Zirahuen is the cleanest lake in Mexico, and on visiting the lake, I was able to witness its tranquility myself. Just by being in the presence of this body of water—with its beauty and serenity—I was rejuvenated. This piece serves to map my memory of the location and of a significant point in my life; it reflects the energy of the place as well as the quiet nostalgia of the memory. The viewer does not need to know the *exact* location that the piece references, but the title hints at it.

The materials I use are a part of my process—a therapeutic experience of remembering and depicting a location and the emotions connected with it. Papermaking is a huge part of this. Abaca, sabai, and cotton are typically the fibers I use in creating my paper. The silver leaf is used to reflect the light and add another textural dimension that may serve to catch the viewer's eye or highlight the delicacy of the lines.