

Emily Short

### Artist Statement

My work explores the space that children and family pets occupy and create. I see children and pets as matching intervals on either side of the animal-human binary, with pets being domesticated animals, and children being “less domesticated” humans in terms of societal conditioning. These prints portray the many playful and ambiguous aspects of child-pet interactions where the roles and structures of power are rarely fixed. Family pets are often the first teachers and playmates for children in their household, leaving memories that can be tender or distressing, but enduring nonetheless. This work seeks to provoke the viewer into constructing a narrative to contextualize the given images by drawing on memory and imagination. It is often said that things are “etched” in our memories. As part of my work seeks to draw on memories, the process of drawing and etching copper plates was most appropriate to facilitate my concept. By leaving the background of the portrayed scenes blank, viewers are given room to provide their own context as to what these children and pets are doing, where they interacting, and why. I employ cropping and perspective to encourage the feeling of being just outside the boundary of the interactive space being held between the pet and child.