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# PAGODA RED

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## "THE EMBRACE (SHUNGA STUDY)" BY MICHAEL THOMPSON

**\$3,280**

2018 • United States • Paper, Ink • Collection #CMT255

W: 19.0" D: 1.5" H: 15.0"

Based in Chicago, IL, contemporary artist Michael Thompson creates unique kites, collages and mixed media works assembled from material fragments of past and present collected in his travels. His ongoing series of large-scale kites bridge the gap between flat art and sculpture, each crafted of split bamboo frames covered with stretched muslin and a collage of vintage ephemera – including kimonos, obis, paintings, scrolls, drawings, metal leaf, bleeding paper, book pages, or anything with a story to tell.

A combination of print and collage, this work entitled "The Embrace (Shunga Study)" condenses the complex processes involved in Thompson's kite works into a small-scale format. Continued...



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The miniature work offers an intimate scene collaged from a Japanese shunga print and a Chinese-language diagram of the anatomy of a heart. Literally translated as "spring pictures," Japanese shunga is an erotic art form that reached its peak during the Edo period (1603-1867), typically in the form of woodblock prints (ukiyo-e) depicting the sensual pleasures. Spliced from their original context, the paper fragments of "The Embrace" are layered and rearranged as a convergence of body parts, a frenzied expression of passion and lust. As the couple holds each other close, they become intertwined in a network of veins and arteries, an indication of their all-consuming love, or perhaps simply of their racing hearts.

"The Embrace (Shunga Study)," 2018

Michael Thompson

Mono-print and found paper collage. Framed.

Additional Dimensions:

Visible Collage: 7.

