

**BART
MICHIELS**

62-65

Bart Michiels' contemporary photographs of historic battlefields contemplate the sites of some of the deadliest conflicts on the European continent. The title of the series, "The Course of History," admits to diverse possible readings: The unfolding development or repeating of history, the teaching of history, and history's playing field. He does not choose a single reading, but lets his series title open up further space for interpretation. Although any obvious physical scars have long since been erased, subtle disturbances or happenstance marks in these otherwise peaceful pastoral scenes allude to past trauma. Michiels grew up in a country marked by two world wars, but the subject of his work is not merely war, but of how place, site, and landscape is interpreted when laced with history and memory. For Michiels, the natural world is both one of beauty and of violence or cruelty; both always there and existing in each other's shadows, or, to borrow the American earth artist Robert Smithson's words, "Each landscape, no matter how calm and lovely, conceals a substrata of disaster."

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BE North Sea /
Irish Sea Region

100 x 120 cm

2011

TITLE WORK





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