

# Carets, strike-outs, underlines, circles and dots

Lorna Brown

Edit marks form a near-obsolete notation system, now that most copy-editing is completed using the “track changes” function of word processing software. Working from a digital scan of hand-written copy edit marks found online, Lorna Brown hired a sign painter to interpret the marks in a series of 48 paintings on wood.

Reproducing these marks as “oil paintings” elevates their provisional status as an invisible part of the publication process, and speaks to the history of printers’ ornaments and the margin notes of the scribe and the rubricator. For instance, the *pilcrow*, used to indicate a paragraph break, may have originated from a mispronunciation of the French word *pelagraphe*, while other sources credit its origin as “pulled (or plucked) crow” based on its appearance.



Lorna Brown, *Carets, strike-outs, underlines, circles and dots*, 2014, oil on panel

Photographs by SITE Photography

Images courtesy of the artist

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