Litograph

5. On Another Planet

Fused shells open up a space for the imagination. On the substrate of wild oysters – visible at low tide – one can observe remnants of other animal colonies, as well as still-living organisms. Their calcareous shells create intricate structures: labyrinths, honeycombs, systems. New layers are continuously added, while the older, already dead ones slowly disintegrate into sea sand – an undefined binder that forms the foundation of a future landscape. A sudden shift in scale is all it takes, and tiny shells are transformed into strange pools, rocky cliffs with adjacent mysterious dunes. To fully convey this “play” with proportion and the monumentalization of every life form, it was important to transform the original photograph into a lithograph – a graphic technique in which a drawing or photo is printed from a flat limestone block. Thus, the shell motif is reproduced using a stone that itself originated from countless ancient shells at the bottom of a prehistoric sea in the area of present-day Solnhofen in Bavaria.