About the cover art  

Kota Ezawa’s art practice includes appropriating found images of iconic news events and popular culture phenomena and abstracting them. The resulting works are colorful, seductive, pared-down drawings, light boxes, collages, and animations. On March 13, 1997, unidentified orbs of light were seen and photographed in the skies over Arizona and Nevada. The large-scale UFO sighting initially received little attention, but USA Today ran a cover story on the lights on June 18, 1997, and the lights became national news. In Ezawa’s Phoenix Lights, the city and the unexplained lights appear flat and ordinary, almost indistinguishable from the city’s usual lighting infrastructure and in contrast to the media images that sparked people’s imaginations and evoked visions of aliens, secret missions, conspiracies, and other worlds.

Kota Ezawa lives and works in Oakland, California, and is an associate professor of film and of fine arts at the California College of the Arts. His work is in the collections of major museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.


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Cover
Kota Ezawa
Phoenix Lights, 2014
Duratrans transparency and light box
20 3/4 × 24 3/4 × 5 in.
Courtesy of Christopher Grimes Projects