

The carbon works involve an investigation of carbon as a material as an element openly circulating and combining to link all forms of organic life. I also came to recognize in this project the place of carbon in materials I have long been using in my work such as graphite, and its burnt, residual forms in charcoal and black pigments and inks..

of greatness

My attention to carbon began, rather obliquely, in finding a downcycled 1959 edition of Josef Karsh's "Portraits of Greatness"— and realizing the intense black of the photogravure printer's ink, the heavy paper it was printed on, and the sitters he documented all shared the element of carbon as a material baseline.

I eventually came to consider the pages in this book individually, which the photographer had designed in a way that allowed easy separation from the binding to permit the book owner to freely framed a chosen image..

My initial response was to redistribute the individual portrait in a less singular and centre-weighted way—essentially to fold sitter and setting, image and paper, together equally. After folding, the portrait has been mounted by registering a corner of the collapsed paper with a corner of a mat originally cut to accommodate the full sized, unfolded portrait. The completed work is intended to inhabit its frame in a partially withdrawn, but reintegrated manner.

aerobic figures

the aerobic figures were developed from a sculptural mobile I constructed that was roughly modelled after the fractured crystalline structure of amorphous carbon--a form of carbon found in char and soot and the burned organic matter commonly used by both artists and industry as a pigmenting material. In the sculptural mobile the irregular order of amorphous carbon was assembled in the manner of a crude ball and stick figure: a manifold of linked and dangling sockets, hinged gestures and prosthetic extensions.

Rendered in soot, the aerobic figure drawings act to reanimate the original figurative mobile, viewed rotating 360 degrees through nine distinct positions.