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Anthony Caro

Paper Relief Sculptures

Anthony Caro completed a series of 124 paper sculptures at Tyler Graphics in 1982. The artist collaborated with Kenneth Tyler, Steve Reeves, and Tom Strianese in the construction of shapes made from pressed wet pulp molded around plaster forms or clay pipes and freely shaped newly made sheets. Once the paper forms were dry, the artist modified them by cutting, folding, compressing, and joining them. During the collaboration Caro made a large inventory of paper designs. Most of these were used to make the 124 sculptures, but several were used as maquettes for constructions in metal and are in the artist's collection.

Caro's paper sculptures were built up from rigid backing planes constructed from flat sheets of paper, rag board, corrugated board (Archival Multi-Use Board), Tycore solid-support paper panels, or plywood covered with paper. These flat planes served as supports for paper forms, wood dowels, and slats. Caro colored the works at all stages of their construction, while wet, dry, and in their final assembled form, with pencils, graphite, acrylic paints, spray paints, and chalk. Many of the sculptures are contained in shallow wooden boxes.

Duane Mitch, Lee Funderburg, Roger Campbell, Rodney Konopaki, and Bob Cross assisted Tyler, Reeves, and Strianese in making the wood fabrications and assembling the sculptures. The sculptures are numbered sequentially from 1 to 131 (numbers 2, 21, 31, 32, 43, 80, and 99 do not exist), and some also have titles. Each work is signed Anthony Caro, numbered, dated, and titled (where applicable) in pencil and has a label with series number, title, material content, and copyright information (copyright Anthony Caro 1982. Fabricated by and published by Tyler Graphics Ltd.) on the verso.