

CARROLL AND SONS  
450 HARRISON AVENUE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02118  
PHONE: 617-482-2477 FACSIMILE: 617-482-2549  
INFO@CARROLLANDSONS.NET

**Sandra Allen**

*Pencil on Paper*

September 2 – October 17, 2009

Opening reception Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30

Carroll and Sons is pleased to announce Sandra Allen's exhibition *Pencil on Paper*. Allen's large-scale graphite drawings concentrate on the trunks and leaf-less branches of trees in tones from silvery gray to black as coal. The solitary trees and sections of trunk imply both the grandeur of vast landscapes and leftover fragments of nature in the urban environment.

Allen says of her work, "I have been using the form and surface of the tree in my work for over 10 years now. I originally began drawing them as sketches for the planning of a painting. It very quickly became apparent to me that the drawings were what I wanted to focus on and I made the decision to abandon painting and embrace drawing as my primary medium.

"I start by looking at trees, those around the town where I live or that I encounter in my travels. When I find one that interests me perhaps because of the formation of the bark, a pattern of the branches, a gnarl or graft, I take many photographs that in a sense serve as sketches. In the studio, I sort through the images, those that are compelling I grid up before beginning a drawing. Then the process takes over, building up the range of tones, choosing where marks are bolder, or where they should be finer, drawing and erasing and drawing some more. Because of the large scale of my drawings, I work on small passages at a time and don't have a sense of the full drawing until it is complete. When the drawing is finished and on the wall, I'm back where I was at the beginning, looking."

Allen's work has been shown at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; the Drawing Center, New York, NY; the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, MA, and the Fogg Art Museum in Cambridge, MA. *Pencil on Paper* will also travel to the New Britain Museum of Art in New Britain, CT where it will be on view from November 2009 through January 2010. In 2008 Allen received a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Grant. Allen received her MFA from Yale University in 1989.

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Installation View 1 © Tony Luong



Installation View 2 © Tony Luong

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Stalwart  
2005  
Charcoal on paper  
150 x 84"

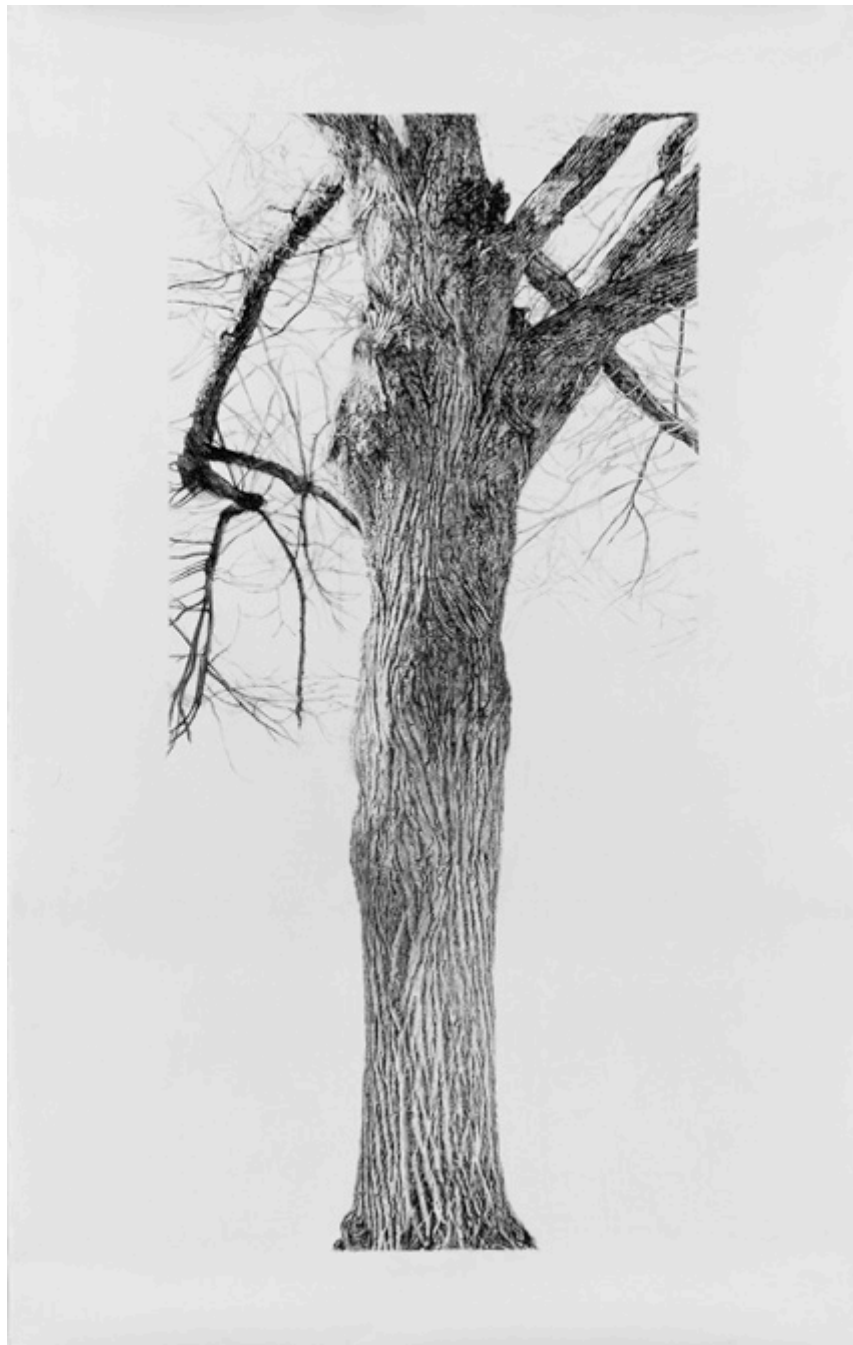
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Capillary  
2009  
Graphite on paper  
33 x 45"



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Cartharsis  
2006  
Graphite on paper  
84 x 52"

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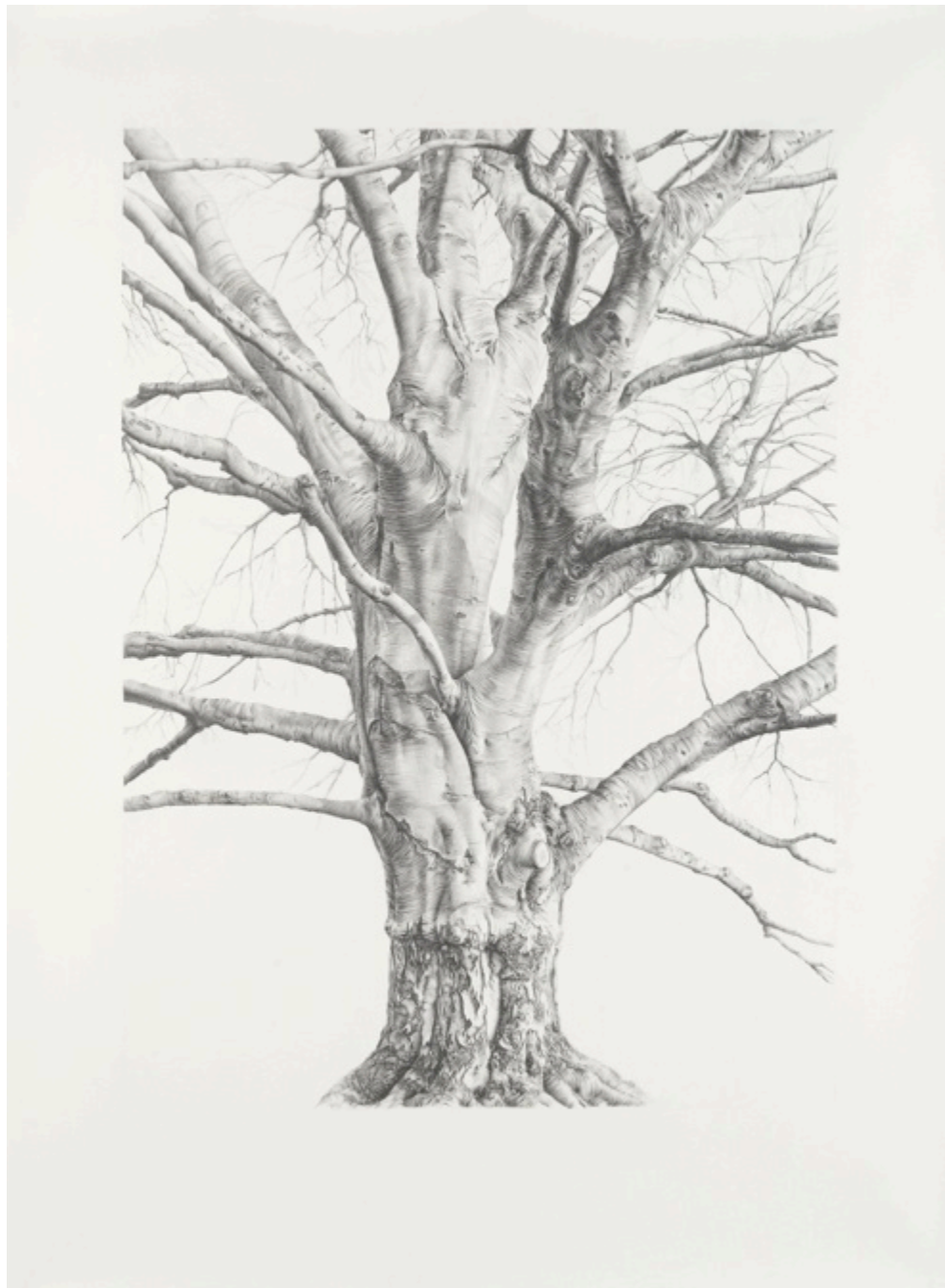
Conduit  
2009  
Graphite on paper  
70 x 52.5"

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Ballast  
2009  
Graphite on paper  
11 x 18.5'

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Scion  
2009  
Graphite on paper  
70 x 52.5"



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## **SANDRA ALLEN**

### **EDUCATION**

1984 BFA, UMass Dartmouth School of Art, Dartmouth, MA  
1989 MFA, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT

### **EXHIBITIONS**

2009 *New/Now*, New Britain Museum, New Britain, CT  
*Pencil on Paper*, Carroll and Sons Gallery, Boston, MA  
2008 *Drawing: A Broader Definition*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA  
2007 *Annual AIDS Benefit Exhibition*, Barbara Krakow Gallery, Boston MA  
*Drawing Show*, The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA  
*Annual Exhibition*, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA  
*Synapse*, Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston, MA  
2006 *Annual AIDS Benefit Exhibition*, Barbara Krakow Gallery, Boston, MA  
*Annual Benefit Exhibition*, The Drawing Center, New York, NY  
2005 *Annual AIDS Benefit Exhibition*, Barbara Krakow Gallery, Boston, MA  
*The Viewing Program*, The Drawing Center, New York, NY  
2004 *Trees*, Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston, MA  
*The 18th Drawing Show*, curated by Raphaela Platow, Mills Gallery at Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA  
1991 Sherry French Gallery, Traveling Exhibition, New York, NY  
1990 Sherry French Gallery, Group Show, New York, NY  
1989 *New Talent Show*, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, NY  
*M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition*, Yale University, New Haven, CT

### **COLLECTIONS**

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, MA  
Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, ,Lincoln, MA  
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT

### **GRANTS**

2008 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Grant

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 2009 Cate McQuaid, *Portraits of Power, Perception*, The Boston Globe, September 9, 2009
- 2007 Ken Johnson, *2007 DeCordova Annual*, The Boston Globe  
Charles Giuliano, *2007 DeCordova Annual*, Maverick Arts and Big, Red & Shiny  
Anne Krinsky, *2007 DeCordova Annual*, Art New England
- 2004 Cate McQuaid, *Sandra Allen at Mario Diacono*, The Boston Globe, November  
Cate McQuaid, *The Drawing Show at Mills Gallery BCA*, The Boston Globe, February  
Mario Diacono, *Sandra Allen – Trees*  
Patrick Murphy, *Synapse*