

Cauliflower Ear

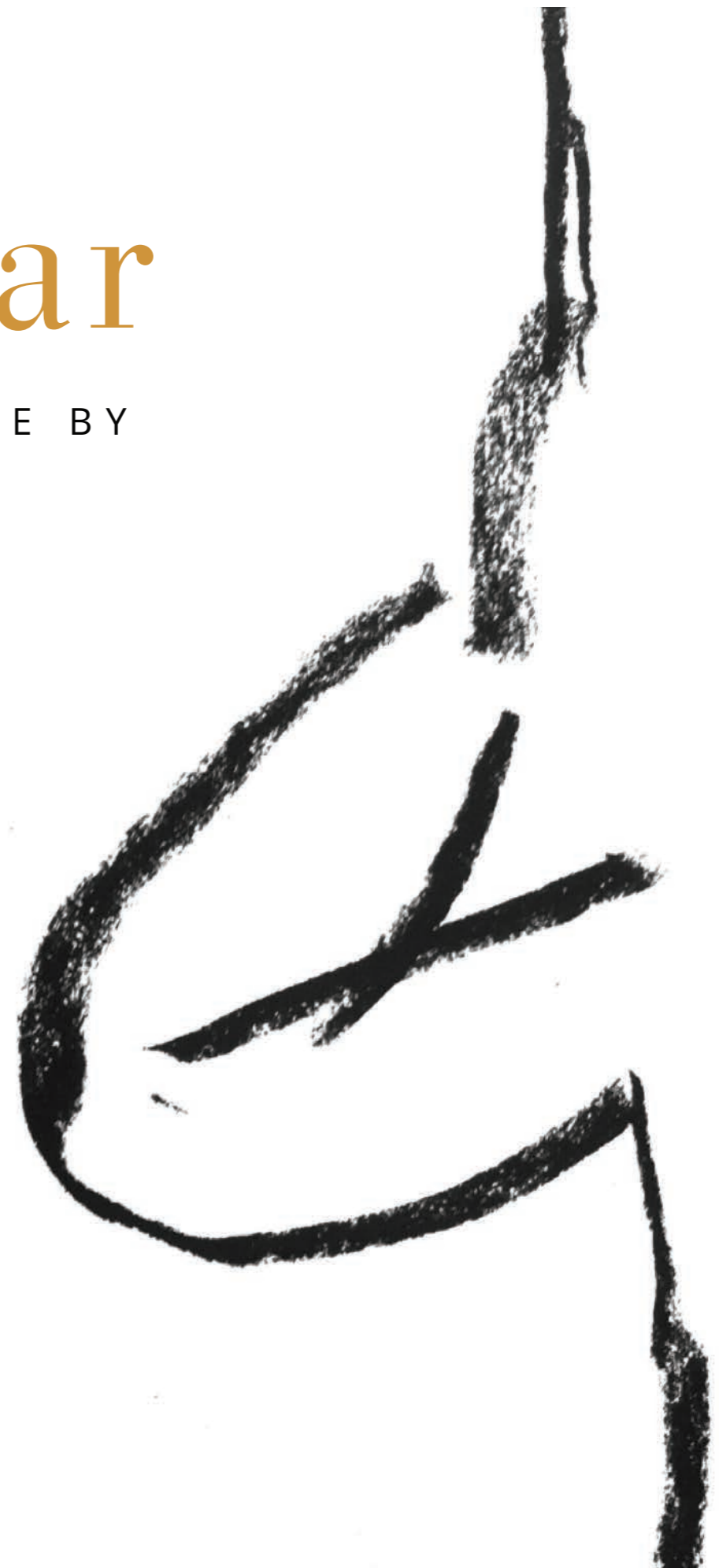
PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND A SCULPTURE BY
CHRISTIAN RAMIREZ

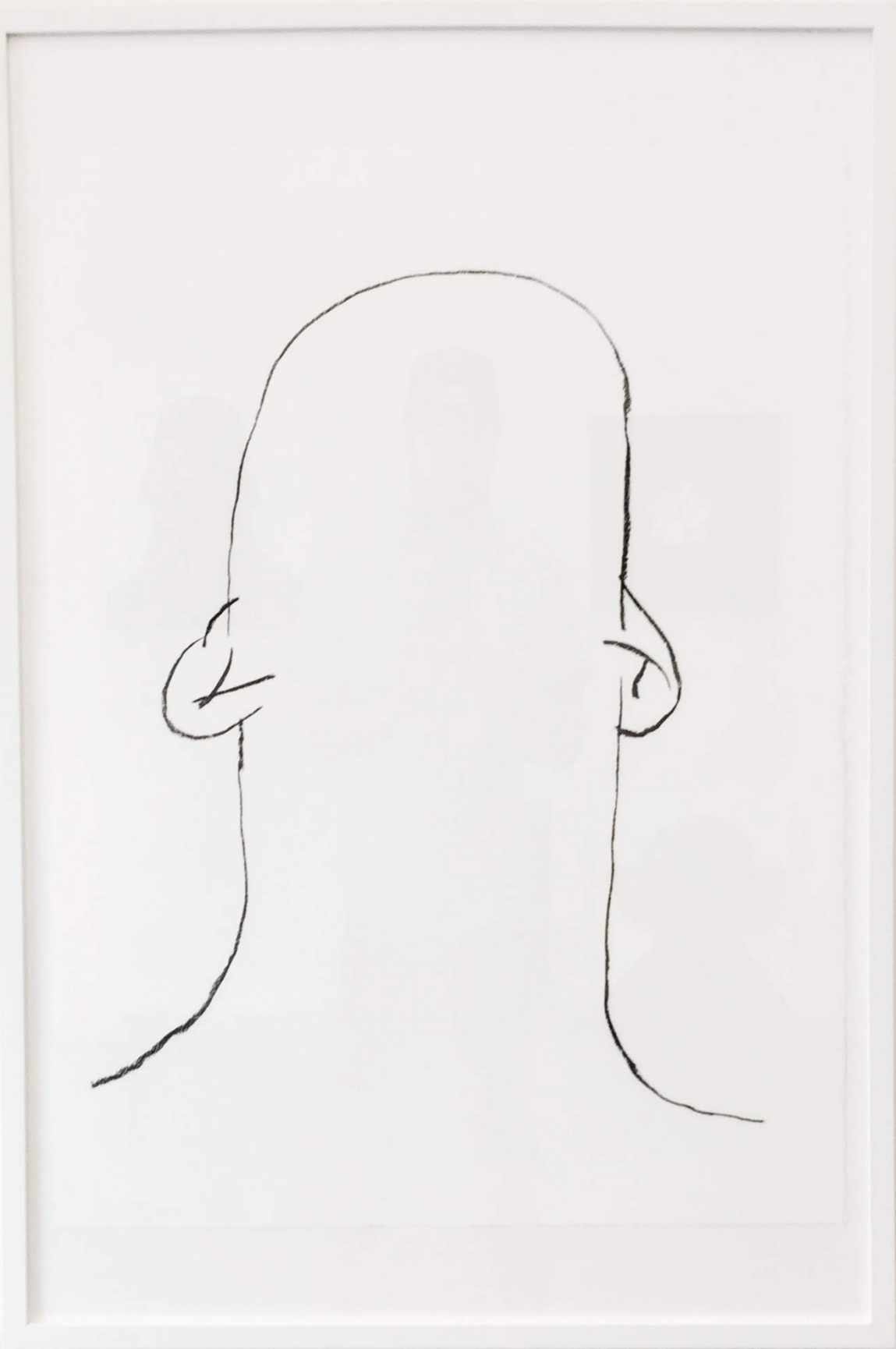
SEPTEMBER 8TH - 21ST

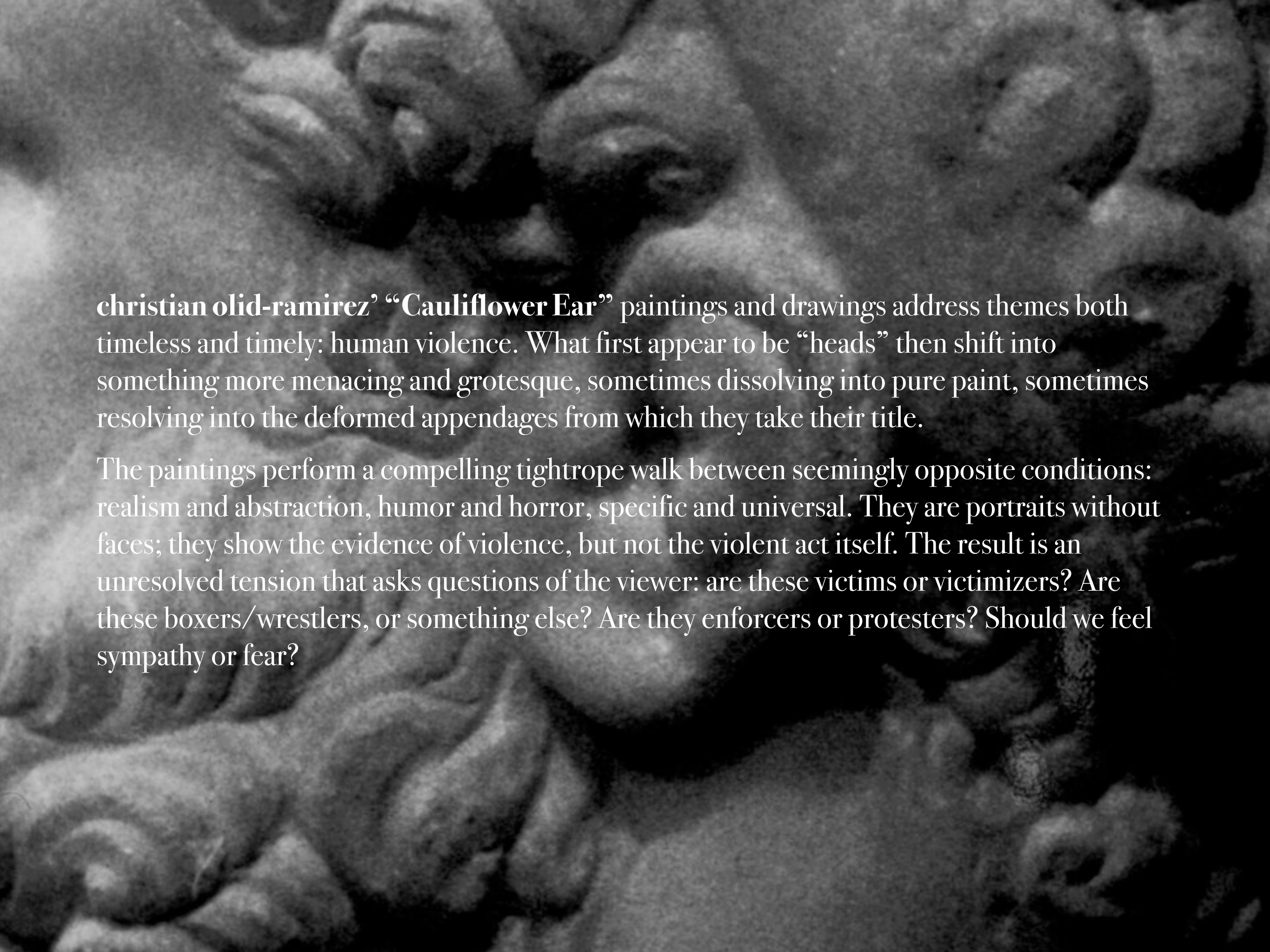
OPENING RECEPTION
SATURDAY 8TH 4-9PM

OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

C.A.C.t.T.U.S
Creative Arts Coalition to Transform Urban Space
326 Elm Ave
Long Beach, CA 90802
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christian olid-ramirez’ “**Cauliflower Ear**” paintings and drawings address themes both timeless and timely: human violence. What first appear to be “heads” then shift into something more menacing and grotesque, sometimes dissolving into pure paint, sometimes resolving into the deformed appendages from which they take their title.

The paintings perform a compelling tightrope walk between seemingly opposite conditions: realism and abstraction, humor and horror, specific and universal. They are portraits without faces; they show the evidence of violence, but not the violent act itself. The result is an unresolved tension that asks questions of the viewer: are these victims or victimizers? Are these boxers/wrestlers, or something else? Are they enforcers or protesters? Should we feel sympathy or fear?



olid-ramirez may give us a clue to his intentions with the accompanying series of paintings that represent the experience of “seeing stars” when one is hit hard in the head, just before losing consciousness. Is this a warning for our current moment, or is the artist merely reporting (metaphorically?) on his life experience?

Whatever our subjective reactions to these pictures, the work reminds us what is at stake in the ever-present human struggle for power: the focus of that violence—of aggressive reactions to fear—is ultimately our own flesh-and-bones bodies.

-Vonn Sumner 2018

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