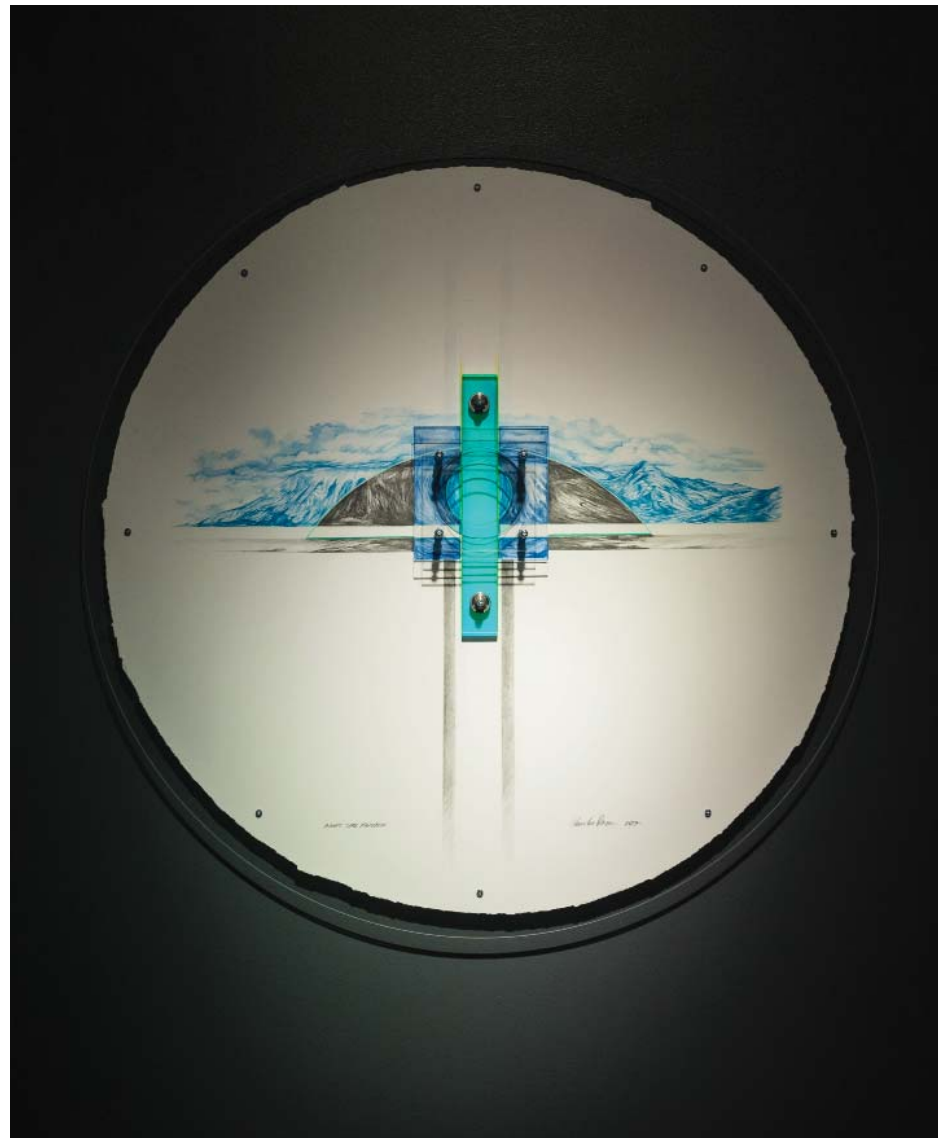


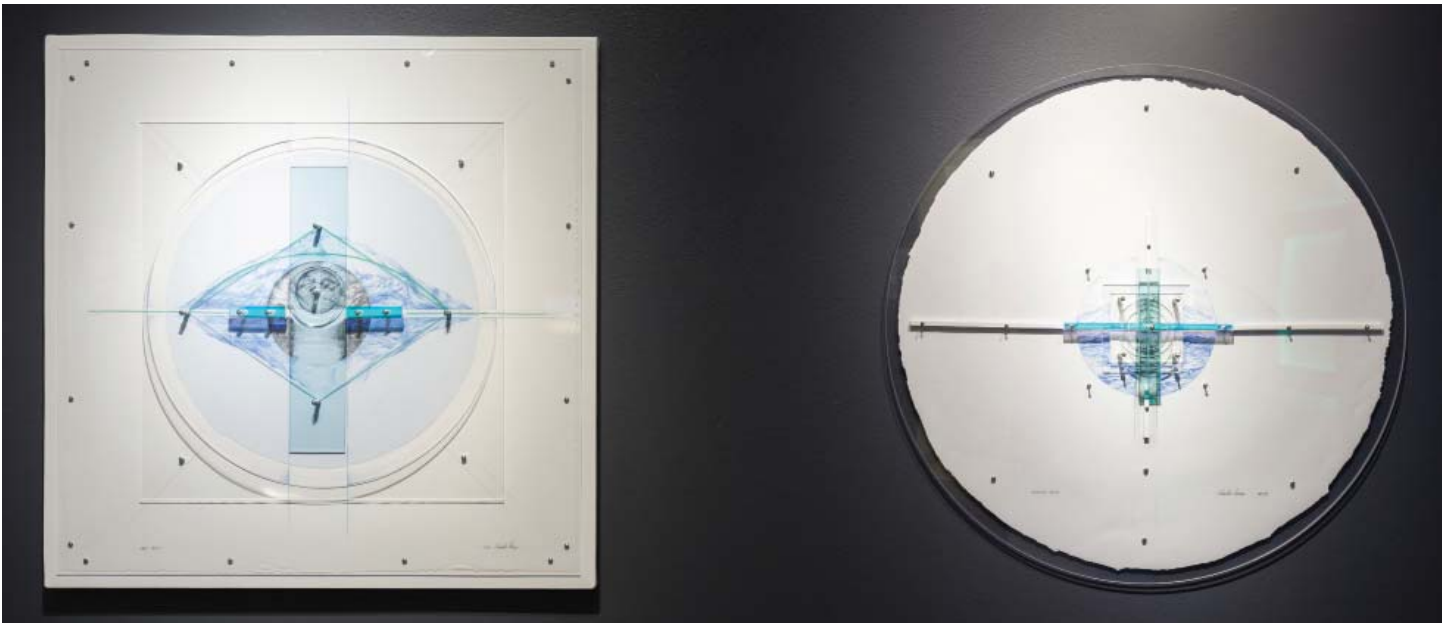
Charles Parson

A SINGULAR PROJECT IN TWO FORMS



A PROPOSAL FROM LEAPING MAN





CHARLES PARSON

As a prolific and acclaimed working artist for over half a century, Charles Parson has strongly influenced the art world in the Rocky Mountain West. He has exhibited his drawings, wall constructions, signature sculptures, and site installations throughout the region and across the country, including more than 75 one-artist shows granted him in the nation's galleries and museums.

Parson's treatment of the individual's space within the variable circle of the horizon is his response to living in the contemporary American West. He has lived here for over 40 years, dividing his time between the urbanscapes of the Front Range and the stark—and vast—high-desert environment of southern Colorado.

In works that vary in form from small drawings and 3-dimensional wall constructions to monumental sculptural structures, Parson has achieved a balance between a timely urban-industrial phrasing and an intimate, textured expression of all the sensations the high-desert and Rocky Mountain landscape impose on our sense of self.

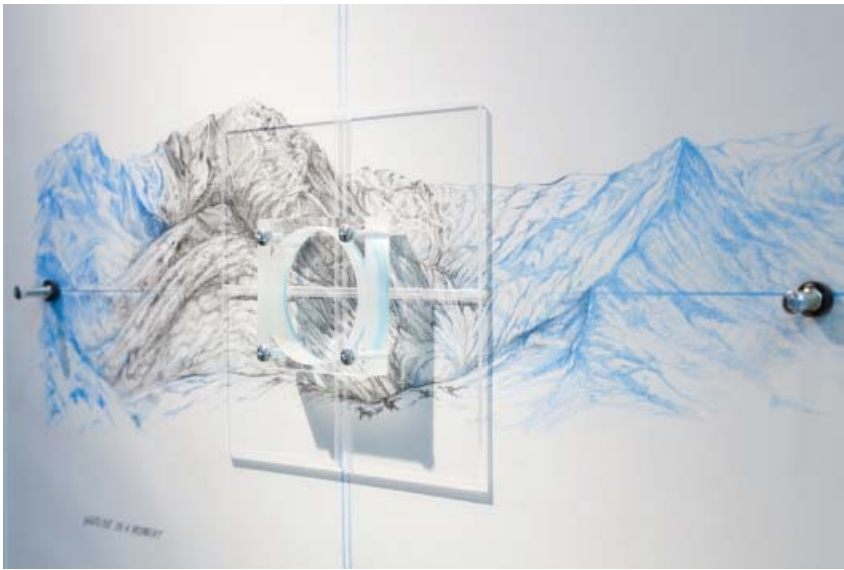
In addition to the impact of his vast body of work, Parson's years as an arts educator has directly influenced several generations of artists from this region. We don't need to search long before discovering younger makers who readily describe his effect on their own development in the visual arts, regardless of the media they work in.

THE PROJECT

We believe significant effect can be brought to the profile of our region's arts community by concrete documentation of the aesthetic outlook and the touch of Charles Parson's work.

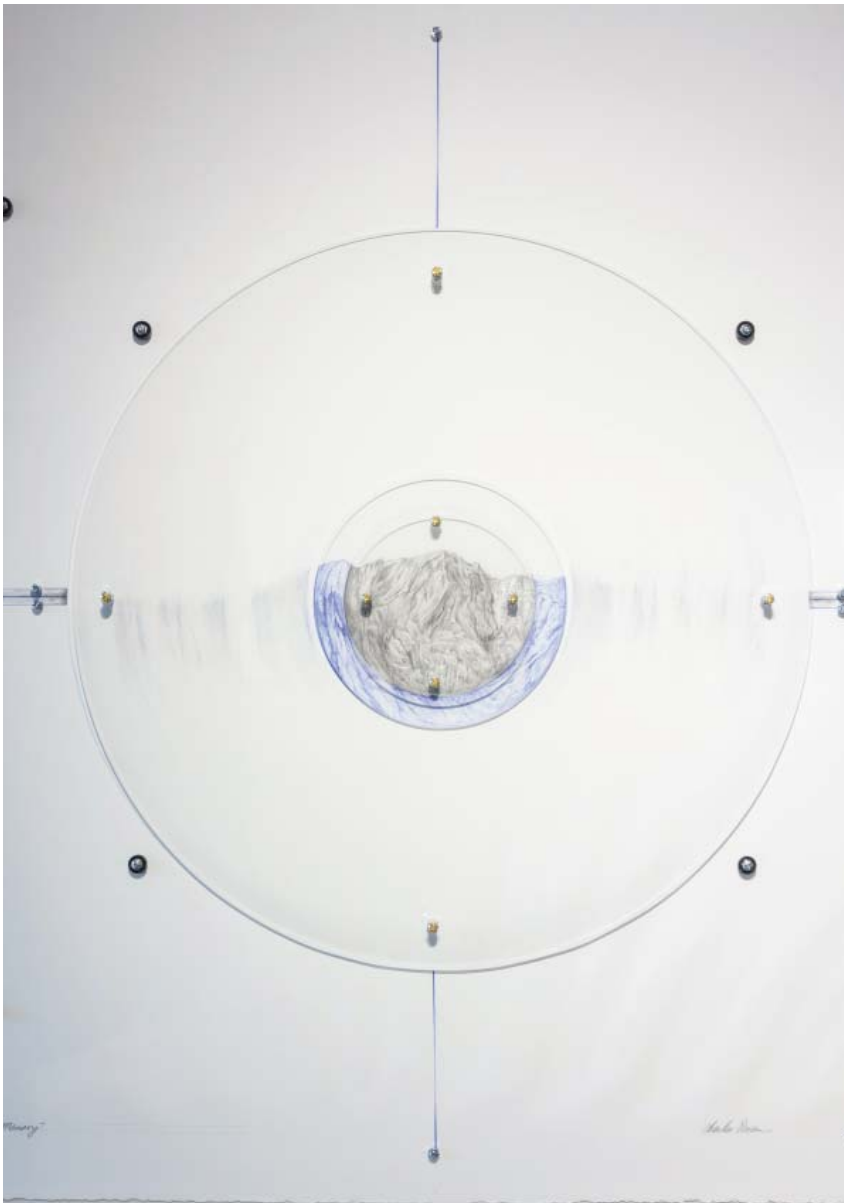
Parson's work has been widely shown and appears in museum collections and private collections throughout the region. But his installations have most often been temporary and a vast collection of his wall pieces remain in storage. This places the evidence of his influence too far outside of the public eye. It also denies the art world ready access to the tactile intimacy of Parson's work and the breadth of his legacy.

To address this, and working directly with the artist, LEAPING MAN—a Colorado-based publishing and production enterprise—has entered the planning stage for a two-part effort to produce a limited number of fine works housed in hand-made boxes of the artist's conception and a traditional hard-cover book made to be more widely available.



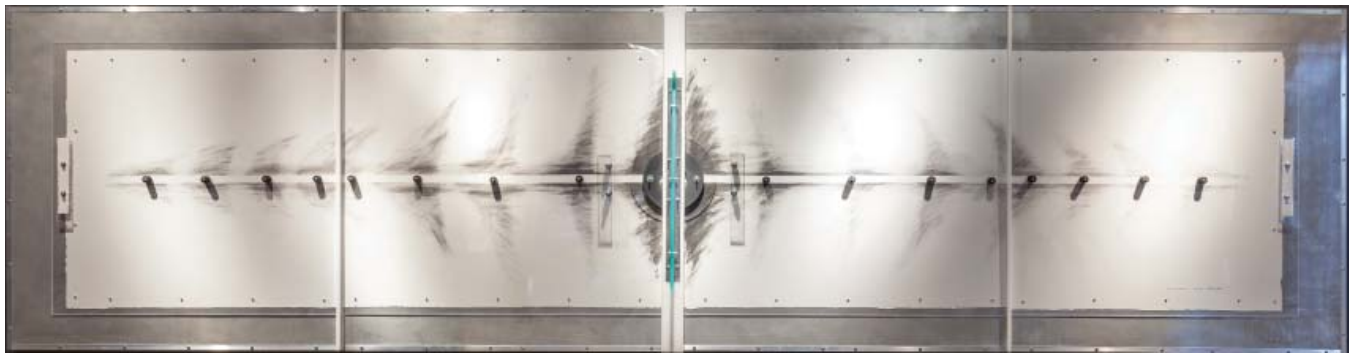
THE BOX

Though Parson is an artist who works in many media and has even created performance works, most critical attention has been given to his sculptures which, regardless of scale, are made of industrial materials: iron, steel, Plexiglas, galvanized bolts, nuts, and washers, &c. But Parson—a graduate of the Cranbrook Academy of Art—had previously studied landscape painting under A. E. Backus and had trained in drawing and printmaking at The Kansas City Art Institute. The delicacy of Parson's graphite and charcoal drawings and his involvement with the atmospheric aspect of the western landscape, his bringing the horizon into an often intimate nearness particularly in his most recent works, has drawn warm responses for Coloradans who share this environment. It is this "drawing" aspect—widely defined—that the project will emphasize.



The first element of the LEAPING MAN project will gather original drawings and fine prints (and perhaps a few photographs) into a "box" the artist will design, most likely made of Plexiglas, one of his signature materials. The contents of each box will differ as each will contain original works. In addition, the boxes may be constructed in such a way as to exhibit the contents in rotation and each one will be personally altered by the artist. Boxes will be produced in a limited quantity—likely no more than 30—and will showcase the drawing aspect of Parson's oeuvre, which LEAPING MAN believes is less familiar to the art world than are his sculptures.

*Both elements
of this project
will foreground
the delicacy and
intimacy of Charles
Parson's drawings.*



THE BOOK

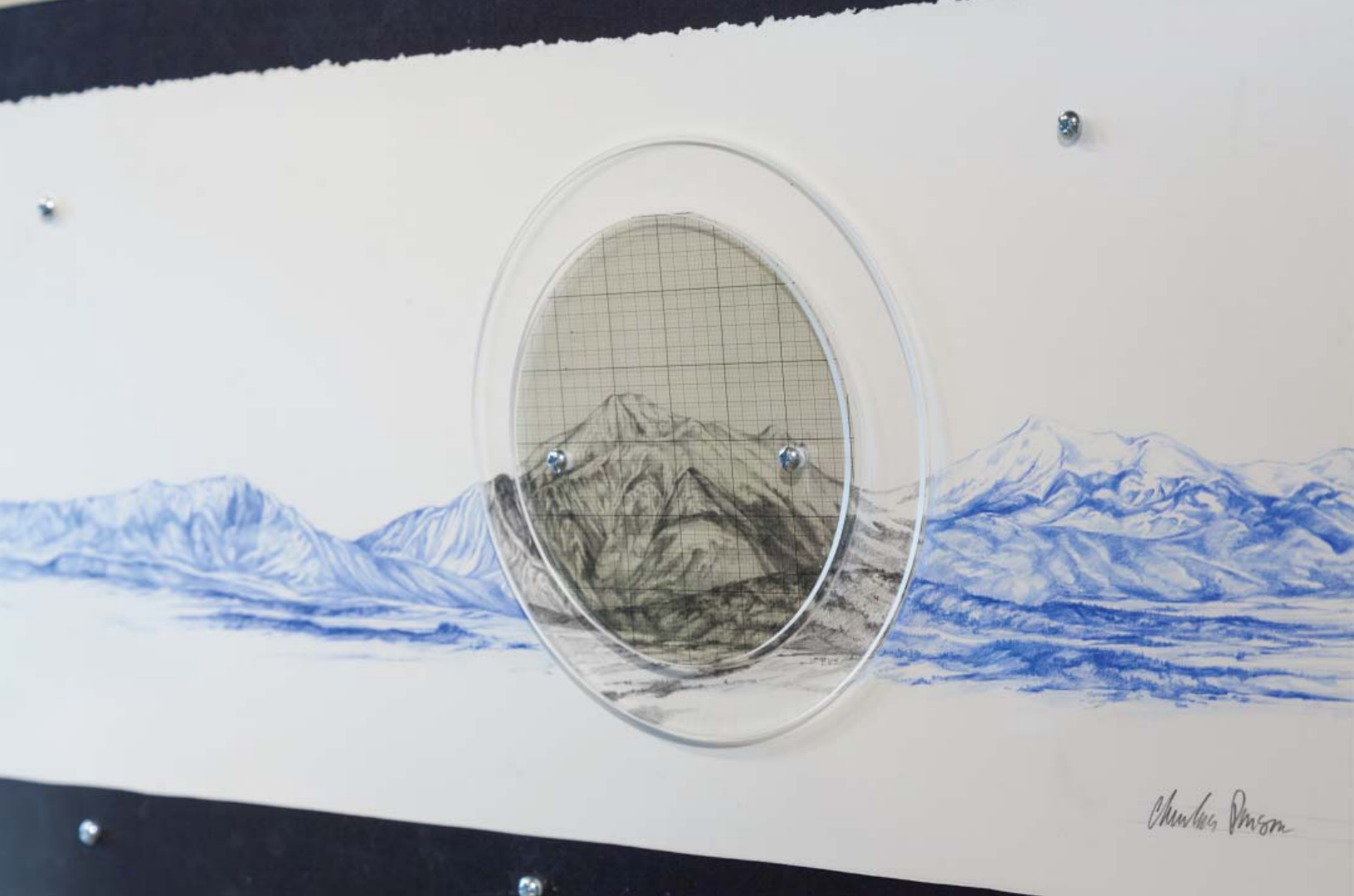
As a complement to the originals and the visual foci of the "boxes", LEAPING MAN will produce a more traditional, fine-press book documenting the inclusive "drawing" aspects of the artist's career. This monograph will be of the quality to attract buyers at museums and fine arts bookstores throughout this region and across the country. The number of reproductions in the book will be determined as the project develops, but the volume will include documentation of the

provenance of each work represented, where it resides (or whether it survives), its dimensions and the materials of its construction.

In addition, the book will include an extensive biographical/critical essay that places Parson's work into its influences, acknowledges the impact the Western landscape has had on the artist, and examines the themes and motifs that have defined his images throughout his career in

the West. As Frederick Ramey, the Executive Director of LEAPING MAN, is a long-time publishing professional, the organization has arranged to make the book available within the traditional book-delivery system so that this aspect of the project can have its widest reach.





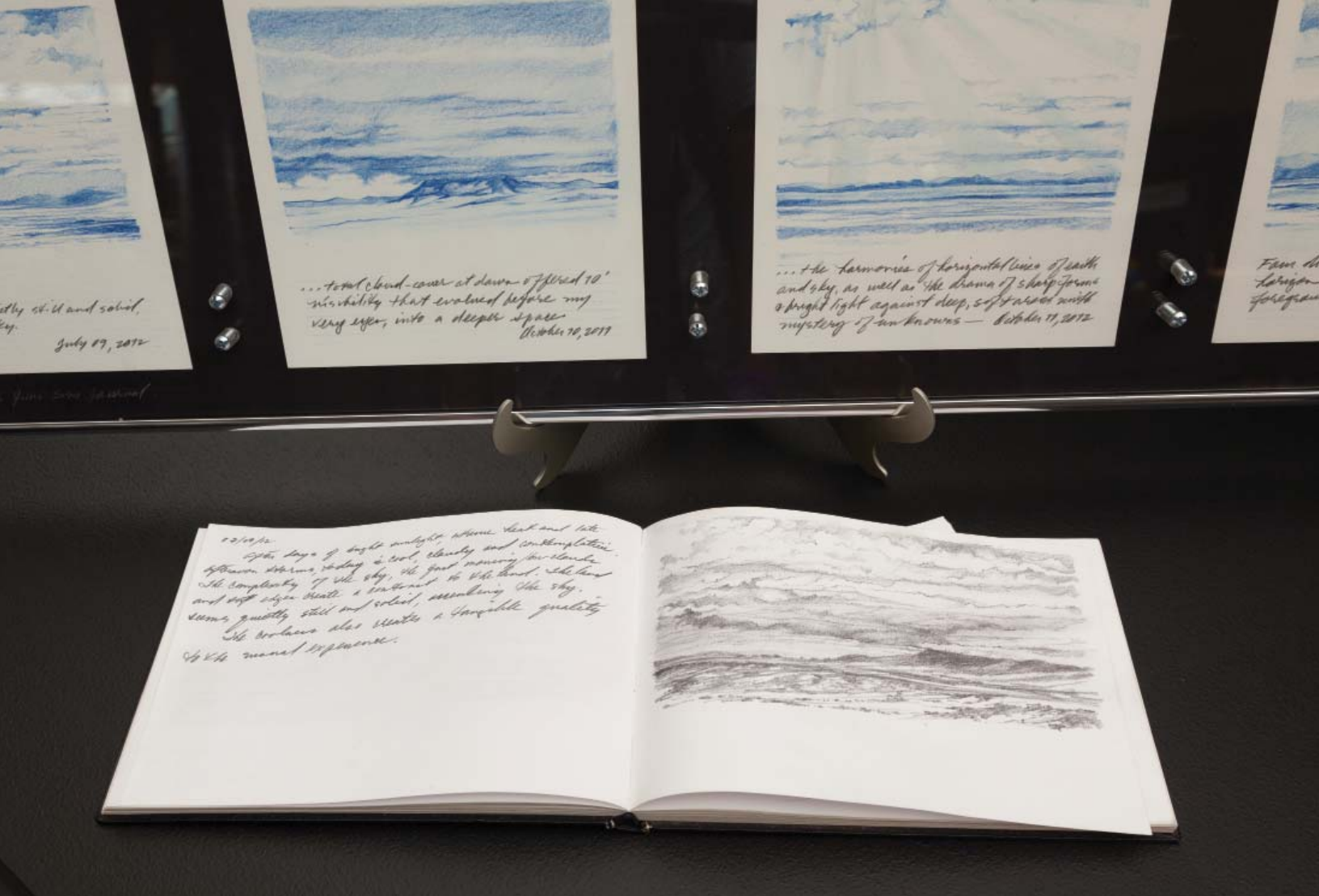
THE PROCESS

LEAPING MAN is a Colorado not-for-profit company whose purpose and mission is to connect artists in various media with a wider public and, where possible, with other artists across media and genres. Each project LM undertakes is independently funded, and in most cases income from the sale of artifacts from an LM project will be shared evenly between LEAPING MAN and the artist(s). In the case of this project, those artifacts will be both the "box" and the book.

The artist and Mr. Ramey have engaged in the definition of the project for some months. The hope of both is that LEAPING MAN will be able to partner with an established funding entity that is familiar with Parson's work and is willing to enter an open discussion about how to execute this project to the advantage of the Rocky Mountain West and its arts community.

*We are hopeful
that either the
release of the box
or the publication
of the book will
be celebrated and
marked in a public
exhibit of Parson's
most recent work.*

As with all its projects, LM will work to ensure that as much of process as possible will be done by regional designers, printers, fabricators and distributors. The purpose of the Parson project is to extend the reach of a Colorado aesthetic as embodied in one of its most prolific and established visual artists.



FREDERICK RAMEY

FREDERICK RAMEY is a writer, editor, publisher, and now Founder and Executive Director of LEAPING MAN. He is also co-owner and Co-Publisher of one of the country's first decentralized publishing houses, Unbridled Books, an independent company specializing in commercial literature. Unbridled Books was founded in 2004. Prior to that, he was one of the founding editors of BlueHen Books—an imprint of Putnam—and through the 1990s was Publisher and Executive Editor of MacMurray & Beck, an award-winning independent press in Denver. Before building M&B, Ramey co-founded Arden Press, an independent publisher of scholarly titles in women's studies and film studies. He holds a terminal degree in modern literature from The University of Missouri and is the author of articles on a variety of subjects, including literature and the visual arts.

The scale of this project will result directly from involvement of the institutions and individuals who become its partners.



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Drawings by Charles Parson

Cover photo: Heather Longway,
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 All other photos: Wes Magyar