

Leaf Prints
2017-2019, ongoing

Inkjet prints on Hahnemuhle etching paper
Dimensions variable; most prints are 82" H x 58" W

These works are part of an ongoing series of large-scale inkjet prints of decayed leaves. I think of them as “portraits.” The leaves are scanned at a high resolution and printed at a larger-than-person-size scale. Most of the leaves are 82” tall x 58” wide, creating a visceral experience that draws the viewer into the image.

I am fascinated with the process of decay and how it reveals the unique inner structure of each leaf. Some of the leaves remind me of landscapes and cities viewed from an airplane. All the leaves decayed naturally, except for the Cucumber Magnolia. It was collected while still green, then boiled in a caustic soda ash until it almost completely disintegrated, leaving a see-through lacy network.

Each portrait is a frozen moment in time. By collecting the leaves and bringing them indoors, I am stopping the process of decay, then capturing the moment through the scanning process. We often stop looking at things we think we know well — an oak leaf, for example. By encountering the leaves at an enlarged scale and looking closely, we can see them in new ways.