

Tattoo Dptych

Many of Russell's new drawings focus on the imagery of tattoos and the importance many of his students feel about their 'inked' decorations. Russell has always been fascinated by tattoos..... so exotic and surreal. He was excited by the tattoos owned by his various uncles (ex-sailors) and other relatives.

While attending Auburn, Russell learned more about traditional drawing, but he always remembered tattoos: the creations of dark, positive images on a moving and changing ground. These images are all over the top and are not meant to degrade or glorify a certain type of Southerner or their kinfolks from the past..... to paraphrase Faulkner, "the past is not even past".