

Basic Detail Report

**Title**

The Sower

Artist

Robert ParkeHarrison, Shana ParkeHarrison, John Goodman

Date

2002

Dimensions

image: 22 1/8 x 18 5/8 in. (560 x 474 mm) sheet: 27 3/4 x 23 3/4 in. (703 x 600 mm)

Medium

Multicolor photogravure on acid free mold made paper

Classifications

Photographs

Credit Line

Carl B. Spitzer Fund

Object number

2002.24

Published References

cf.: ParkeHarrison, Robert. *The Architect's Brother*, Santa Fe, N.M: Twin Palms Publishers, 2000. cf.: Bayliss, Sarah. "Excuse me, while I fix the sky." *Art News* 100 no. 3 (March 2001), p. 14-15 cf.: Ollman, Arthur. *Fragments of Document and Memory*, The 3rd Tokyo International Photo-Biennale. cf.: Albahari, Steve and John Wood, *21ST: THE JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY* 2nd ed., September 1999. cf.: Van De Walle, Mark, *ARTFORUM*, March 1995, pp. 95-96.

Collections

Works on Paper

Label Text

Casting himself as the protagonist in carefully choreographed photographs, Robert ParkeHarrison creates, along with his wife Shana, elaborate sets that call attention to humanity's responsibility toward environmental issues. An "Everyman" figure, dressed in a black suit and white shirt, scatters seeds across a field in a whimsical flying machine, attempting to heal a landscape that has been wounded by modern society's abuses. Such invented machines, often present in the couple's work, illustrate the need to use technology and scientific inquiry to restore the natural world rather than to degrade it. The ParkHarrisons' theatrical photographic narratives are the result of a process that includes elements of sculpture, installation, and performance. The artists use photogravure, a process popular at the turn of the 20th century in which a photographic negative is transferred to an etching plate and printed with ink. The technique imbues their images with a dream-like softness that highlights the poetic reveries of humanity's relationship to nature.

