

Graham's new work is a series of geometric drawings depicting the crystalline structures of the elements. Rather than show the elements as static, fixed formations, she introduces movement, suggested by staccato, vibratory repetitions of the linear forms. The reason for the suggested motion is because, at the molecular level, the apparent solidity of these metal and mineral forms appears more fluid, interchangeably exhibiting the physical characteristics of both particles and waves. Images such as Graham's Pyrite drawing show the basic structure of the element, while fainter lines surrounding it echo its geometric form. The eye never settles on a fixed point, roving from one area to the next, drawn by the apparent movement of the lines.

Graham's drawings include linear renderings of quartz, titanium, pyrite and other elements. "Really, the basic premise is the supernova or explosion of a star," she told Pasatiempo. "All of these elements are formed from the enormous heat and it goes out into space." Two older works in the show, Beryl/Silicon/Silicon and Salt/Garnet/Nickel, both from 2004, are graphite drawings on layered vellum. Each sheet of three layers of vellum shows an element taken from an electron microscope image. Salt/Garnet/Nickel is on loan from the Lannan Foundation. "the top is salt, the next layer is garnet, and then nickel."

Graham writes in a statement that carbon "encompasses the physical and the metaphysical because it is one of those essential substances that moves in the cycle of life, death, and transformation that is shared by all." Her works underscore the notion that, at the subatomic level, we all have elements in common. She relates the microcosmic view provided by quantum physics to the macrocosmic view of universal space. All of the elements in her drawings exist inside the human body, which she positions as the axis where the micro and macrocosmic worlds meet. "My interest is in the human body," she said. "It has all of these elements: calcium, carbon, copper, salt, and iron. We even have a tiny bit of lithium. I love to think in terms of how these elements exist out in space and are also in our bodies."

Abatamarco, Michael. Alcoves16/17.1 New MexicoMuseum of Art, The New Mexican, (3 March 2016)