



## Bearogram #10, New York

**Date**

2020

**Primary Maker**

Zana Briski

**Medium**

Unique gold-toned photogram on gelatin silver paper

**Description**

Made in a forest in New York State on a moonless night, Zana Briski's photogram—or "bearogram"—is a unique life-size photographic impression of a wild black bear created using a cameraless photographic technique. This female bear, nicknamed Auggie (because Briski first encountered her in August), was

around one and a half years old when the image was made. The artist has noted that creating photograms in partnership with forest animals "takes tremendous trust, openness, and stillness," and she takes great care to be respectful of these wild creatures. Part of Briski's Animalogram series, this work was made by setting up an eight-foot-long sheet of photographic paper on a cloudy night (when moonlight would not interfere with the exposure), in a location in the Catskills where the artist had previously noticed animal activity. In full view of the forest's inhabitants, Briski waited quietly until the subject passed in front of the paper and let off a hand-held flash that is bright enough to make the exposure without disturbing the animal. After the young bear had moved on, the paper was placed into a lightproof box and transported back to the darkroom where it was developed using traditional analogue techniques and toned with pure gold. Briski considers each Animalogram to be a collaboration between her and the animal whose form is silhouetted on the paper, resulting in what she calls a "ghostly gift which reflects the fragility and majesty of the natural world."

**Dimensions**

Frame: 45 3/4 x 57 1/4 in. (116.2 x 145.4 cm) Image: 39 1/2 x 51 1/4 in. (100.3 x 130.2 cm)