

## Attention's Loop

An Edition of Photographs by Katherine Wetzel of Sculpture by Elizabeth King

Selected from images made for the book *Attention's Loop (A Sculptor's Reverie on the Coexistence of Substance and Spirit)* by Elizabeth King, photographs by Katherine Wetzel (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1999)

The book began with the idea of documenting a single sculpture by photographing it again and again, in many different poses and in different kinds of light, to find the limits of its emotional range. Because the sculpture is jointed and movable, the search for its gestural position is an important part of its formal presentation. We worked together over several months in the spring and fall of 1997 at Virginia Commonwealth University's Anderson Gallery, photographing the sculpture *Pupil*, on loan from the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. During this time Elizabeth added a second sculpture to the project. Both sculptures are half life size self portraits, made interchangeable in the context of the book's exploration of pose and light. In assembling a portfolio of poses for the book, we began realizing the images as works of art in their own right. With Katherine's photography and lighting design, and Elizabeth's sculpture and choreography, we pursued a double intent: to record in detail a self-evidently mechanical object, and at the same time to draw out of that object a convincing illusion of human presence.