Notes on Structure

Imbroglios, heaps, and myopias

Installation at American Contemporary, NYC. March–April 2012
A Phylogenetic Tree (from Homo sapiens to Megalops atlanticus). 2012
Cuts on printed Dibond panel
54 x 42 inches
In *Notes On Structure*, Brooks creates a sculptural representation of a phylogenetic tree — a branching diagram that indicates evolutionary relationships between biological entities, and their common ancestors. The phylogenetic tree here traces the evolutionary paths of humans and one of the world’s most sought after game fish — the Atlantic Tarpon — a fish with enigmatic migration routes, whose ancestors were some of the earliest predatory fish, and is able to breathe oxygen through an air bladder rather than gills.

The diagram is disrupted by the approximation of a school of fish writhing through it, defying their classification on the branching tree.

The notions of taxonomy and structure, by definition, are only able to provide a single perspective of the state of things. The wall constructions lining the back gallery function as portraits of such a conflicted notion of perception. The shortcomings in seeking the *essence of things* becomes subject matter and medium as Brooks capitalizes on these imbroglios to infuse process, motion, and adaptability back into the static structures that apparently define the world around us.

—Excerpted from the American Contemporary press release
Imbroglios (a phylogenetic tree, from Homo Sapiens to Megalops atlanticus). 2012
Fiberglass, gelcoat, MDF, pencil, hardware.
5 x 12 x 21 feet
Installation view
Myopic Wall Composition (with twisted tree felled by thunderstorm and yellow-bellied sapsucker holes). 2012. MDF, wood, paint, metal scaffold
122 x 31.5 x 28 inches
Myopic Wall Composition (with Pennsylvania Bluestone). 2012
MDF, Pennsylvania Bluestone, paint, metal scaffold.
81.5 x 57 x 65 inches
Detail of yellow-bellied sapsucker holes (woodpecker)
Heap (with bobcat, coyote, and I-beam). 2012
Taxidermy animal forms, wood, industrial shrink-wrap, metal.
98 x 24 x 29 inches