A Day in the Life of the Coral (As Seen at Brewster Reef)

Imagery taken during three days at the reef, wood billboard construction, hardware. 12 x 40 x 40 feet

Thomas Gainsborough, "A Landscape in Suffolk," 1748
On the occasion of this public commission Brooks spent a consecutive number of days documenting portions of the barrier and patch reefs in close proximity to Museum Park in downtown Miami. Through the use of large layered billboards that post the daily goings-on of the reefs Brooks visited, he treats the billboard as a journalistic device.

Here the monumentally-scaled imagery depicts evidence of coral’s now common bleaching phases due to deterioration in water quality and intensified warming—alongside their formal beauty and dwindling biodiversity from human impact.

The billboards might appear to the viewer as incomplete or damaged, as large circular areas of the structure have been extracted. The deleterious impact the circular cutouts are analogous to the stresses society imposes upon other life within our environs.

—Excerpted from interpretive sign text
Below: Location of three billboards with sight lines.
Onsite installation in Museum Park, Miami, FL
(Below) Detail looking through all three billboards towards Brewster Reef, where the billboard images were taken.