

2011

Still Life with Stampede and Guano

Concrete animal forms that lived
with wild birds, wild seabird guano, varnish.
Dimensions Variable

Commissioned by the Miami Art Museum,
March-July 2011



Installation view

There is an inherent irony to these concrete faux beasts, whose ferocious poses stand frozen, tamed and shackled as the ultra-domestic ornaments of their masters' lawns.

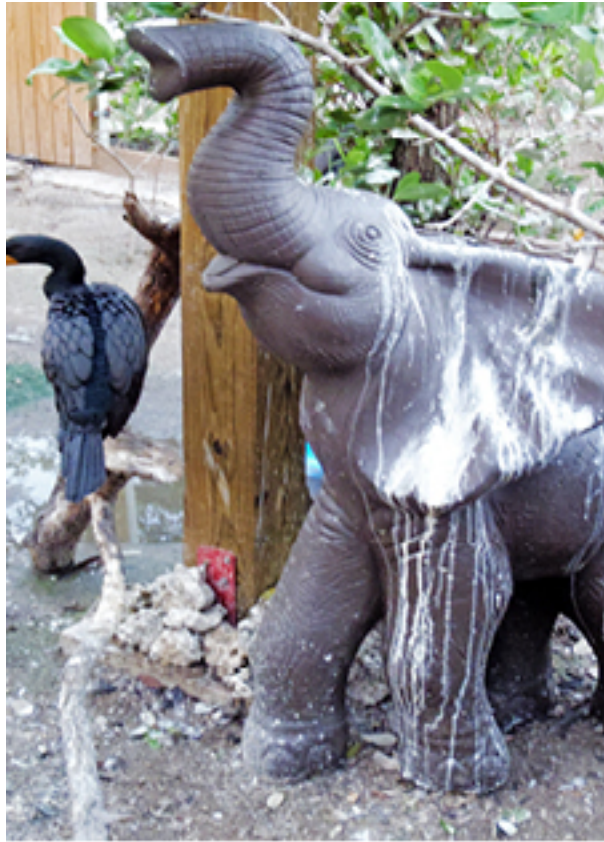
Brooks placed these sculptures throughout the grounds of the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center to “live with” seabirds harmed as a result of contact with humans. Over time, the sculptures acquired a quasi-painterly patina of guano such that the simulated wild animals bear the indexical traces of real ones.

The urgent, overall implication of this piece is of humankind's artificial sense of separation from nature. This sense can blind us to nature's actual presence around us, including the wildlife that struggles to survive amid our urban environments.

—Excerpted from the exhibition wall text



Documentation of sculptures while installed at the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center, to live with rehabilitating wild seabirds and acquire a patina of guano on the faux bronze surface.



(Above) Documentation of sculptures installed at the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center to live with rehabilitating wild birds.
(Below) Installation detail



Installation view



Installation Detail



