

Sandra Meigs

Bird Stuffers

25 May to 30 June 2023



Bird Stuffers is a series of paintings on found rugs and fabrics. The specimens painted are varied birds referencing Victorian taxidermy cabinets from the late 19th century. The title refers to taxidermy artists whose job was to skin the birds, coat and rub their skin with arsenic, and delicately use wire and wool to recreate the animal's shape. They created scenes with birds mounted on tree branches in an aesthetic arrangement, the rarer the bird, the more valuable the cabinet. *Bird Stuffers* is not about bird stuffers but instead portrays both the bizarre side of the art of taxidermy and romantic notions of nature painting. Through an awareness of material sensibilities, a mimicking of "stuffing" processes, and a slew of references to sublime nature painting and taxidermy cabinets, Meigs builds ironic scenes highlighting the Victorian ideal of conquering nature and its reality now pressing upon us with Earth's final demise.

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