## USAII IIUUUS

Sandra Meigs **Bird** Stuffers 25 May to 30 June 2023

> Generally not as elaborate as their English and French counterparts, American bird domes were created in lesser quantities. There are several characteristics that differentiate the American bird dome from those made in Europe, the first being the tendency to use native species rather than foreign birds. Also, the use

The tendency in America was to use wire armatures with applied excelsior and papier-mâché to create the central tree, rather than actual branches. Moreover, the general lack of realism of the scene depicted under the dome makes the American examples appear more rigid or static.

cuing in which



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 scentes an Hobbs Gallery Inc. highlighting the Victorian ideal of conquering nature and its reality now pressing upor 365 Street Street Toronto, Canada M6J 2H2 with Earth's final demise.

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