



“Saúde do Planeta” by Steve Miller at Harper’s Books

July 11, 2012
by Pat Rogers

Steve Miller

Saúde do Planeta

Friday, July 13 – Monday, August 13, 2012

Opening reception with the artist: Friday, July 13, 6-8pm

Harper’s Books is proud to present *Saúde do Planeta (Health of the Planet)*, the first solo exhibition of artist’s books by Steve Miller.

The exhibition will feature glass sculptures that frame unique books showing x-rays of plants and animals from the Brazilian Amazon. Paintings, works on paper, photographs, and customized book editions will also be included alongside the new sculptures.

In August 2011, Miller worked with the Instituto Goeldi in Belem, Brazil, to create a series of x-ray images revealing the extraordinary beauty of Brazil’s biodiversity. The simple clarity of these x-ray animal images, in black and white, are then laminated between sheets of glass.

The images include plants, a six-foot alligator, snakes, sharks, and a female sloth with offspring entitled *Sloth Pieta*. In Miller’s work, the Brazilian sloth, which suffers from air pollution and the loss of its tree environment, is symbolic of a planet being sacrificed for human kind’s progress.



“Global Outpost” by Steve Miller, 2011. Inkjet and silk screen on canvas, 40 x 60 inches.

Miller collects books about Brazil in which he silk-screens x-ray images, taken on the ground, alongside remote sensing satellite imagery of Amazon land use.

The books are then reinterpreted, juxtaposing these images with Miller's photographs of electrical wiring shot in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. The result is a unique body of art highlighting how resource depletion is caused by cycles of human desire, consumption, and change.

Within this tableau of environmental distress, what comes to life through Miller's aesthetic is a celebration of the innate beauty and interconnectedness of the manmade and natural world. This culminates in a cutting-edge design sensibility that permeates all the media Miller has employed in this exhibition.

When looking at Miller's work, the Brazilian writer Paulo Lima observed that:

"Photographing animals with X-Ray equipment brings to our attention a sort of 'interior beauty', from extremely complex structures found in nature and the animal world, with designs impossible to be recreated by the most talented of designers. Flesh and bone, vertebrae, scales, skins, both soft and hard structural make up a moveable and flexible world which comes to life."

Over the past 32 years, Steve Miller has presented 33 solo exhibitions at institutions in the United States, China, France, Germany and Brazil. His exhibitions have been reviewed in *Le Monde*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *ArtForum*, *ARTnews*, and *Art in America*. Miller was one of the first artists to experiment with computers in the early 1980's. His work today continues to integrate science and technology with fine art.

Harper's Books is located at 87 Newtown Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937 Tel: (631) 324-1131
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"Health of the Planet #587" by Steve Miller, 2012.
Carbon inkjet and silkscreen on paper, 24 x 24 inches.



"Health of the Planet #574" by Steve Miller.
Carbon inkjet and silkscreen on paper, 30 x 24 inches.



"Piranha" by Steve Miller, 2011. Carbon on cotton,
24 1/2 x 24 inches. Edition of 12.



Favela Defenders, 2011. 10.75 x 11 inches, ed. 4/9.
Silk-screened book by Steve Miller.

