

2017

# Of Discriminating Artistic Feeling (The Appropriator, The Industrialist, and The Aesthete and Socialite)

Animal cages designed for the two macaws, two pair of  
monkeys and owl that James Deering kept at Vizcaya as personal  
companions – whose respective designs are emblematic of  
Deering's own character qualities: as an appropriator, an  
industrialist, and an aesthete and socialite.

Dimensions variable.

Commissioned by Vizcaya Museum and Gardens



Sketch for *The Appropriator*



*The Appropriator*

Macaw cage made from cypress, mahogany, fish poison, white oak, caning, hardware. In collaboration with Brian Booth.





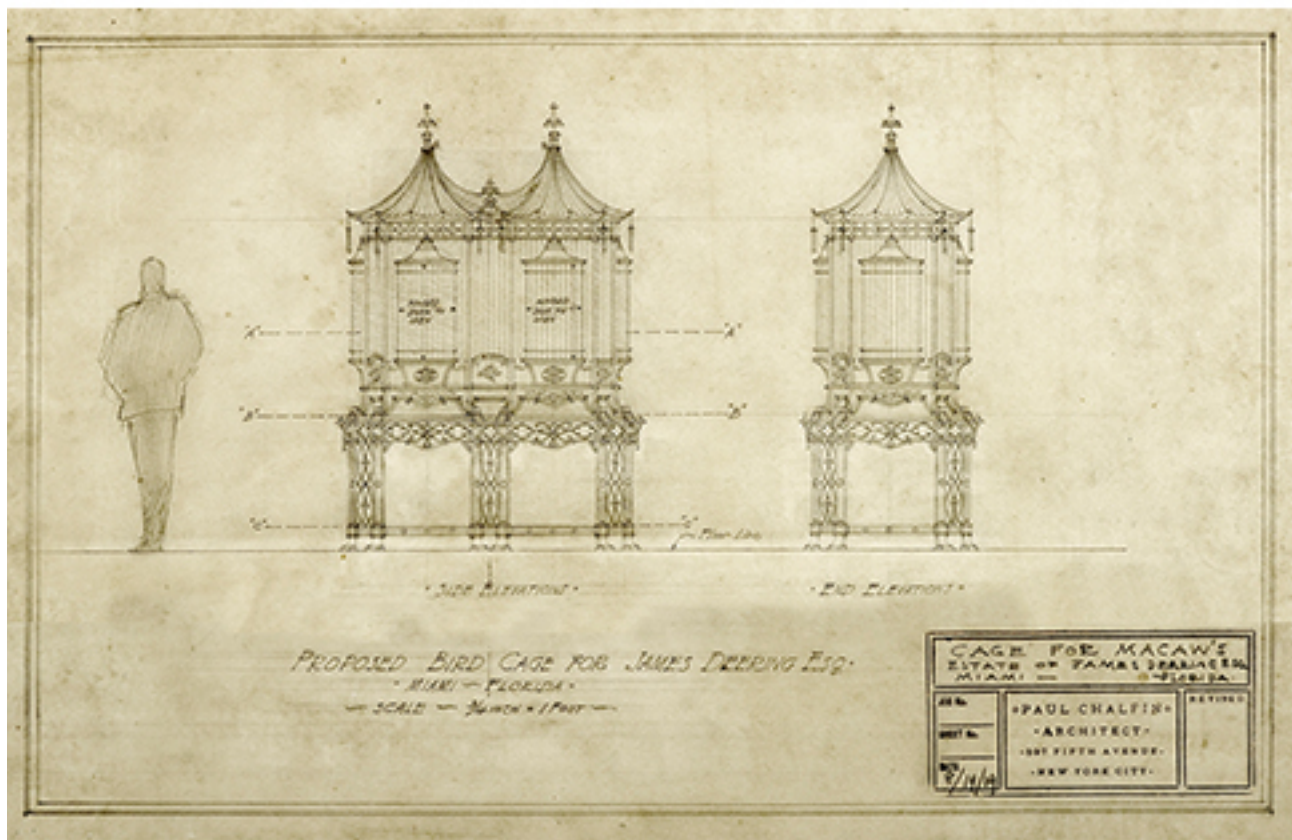
Detail, *The Appropriator*

*Of Discriminating Artistic Feeling* consists of three animal enclosures displayed throughout Vizcaya, in areas that might have originally housed James Deering's birds and monkeys. Brooks highlights the distinctly nonhuman presence these residents contributed to the estate, and how their habitats and sounds added to the overall immersive experience of Vizcaya.

In addition to housing James Deering's two macaws, four monkeys and one owl, the unique cage designs are each emblematic of Deering himself—one conveying his identity as an early 20th Century industrialist, one that regards his disposition as an aesthete and socialite, and the third which enacts his delectation as an appropriator of many architectural and artistic styles. The last was made in collaboration with artist and woodworker of South Florida renown, Brian Booth.

The cages, as if succumbing to their own affectations overwrought with their respective design motifs, are ultimately rendered uninhabitable due to their very own sensory overload.

—Excerpted from the Vizcaya Museum's press release



Paul Chalfin's 1919 architectural drawings of unrealized cage designs for James Deering.

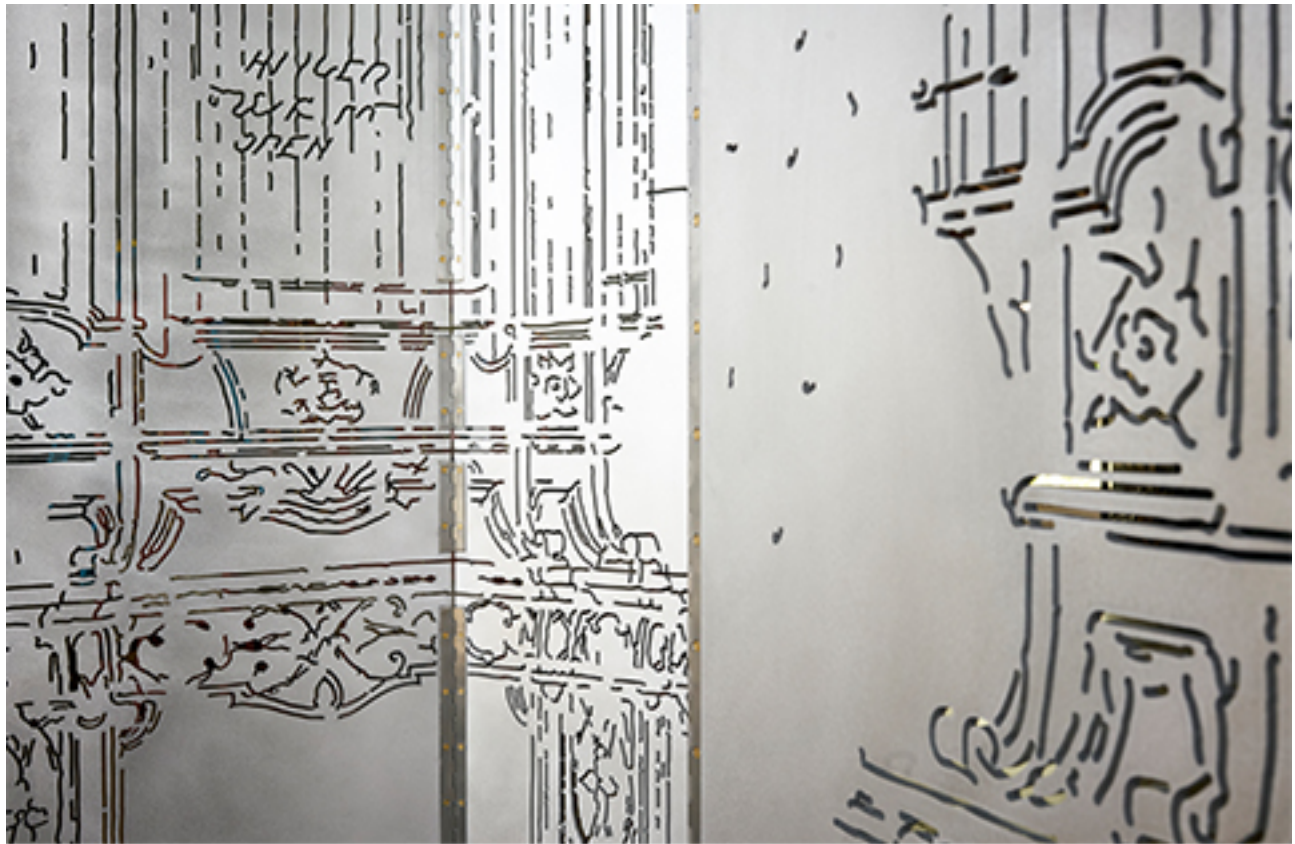




*The Aesthete and Socialite*

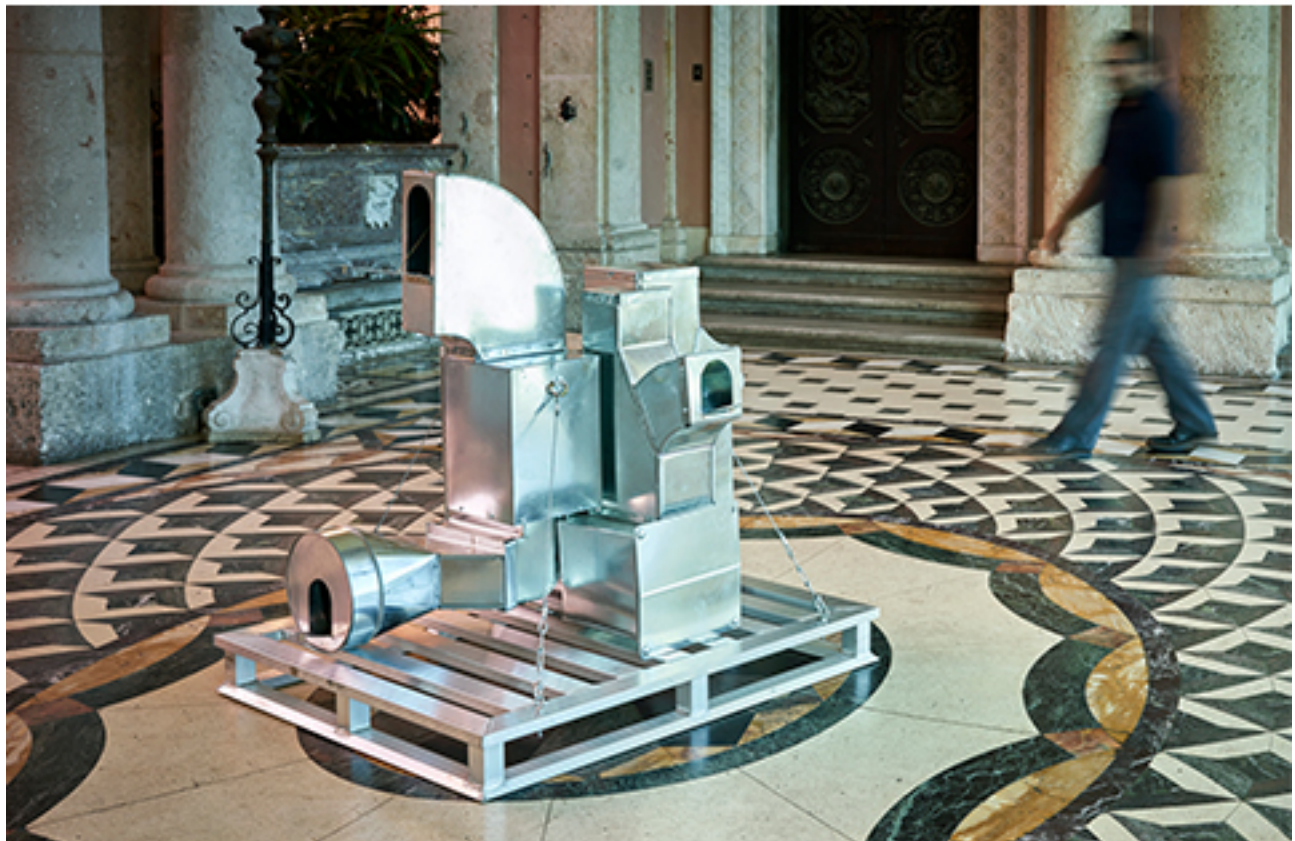
Monkey habitat of milled aluminum based on Paul Chalfin's 1919 architectural drawings of unrealized cage designs for James Deering, stainless steel hardware.





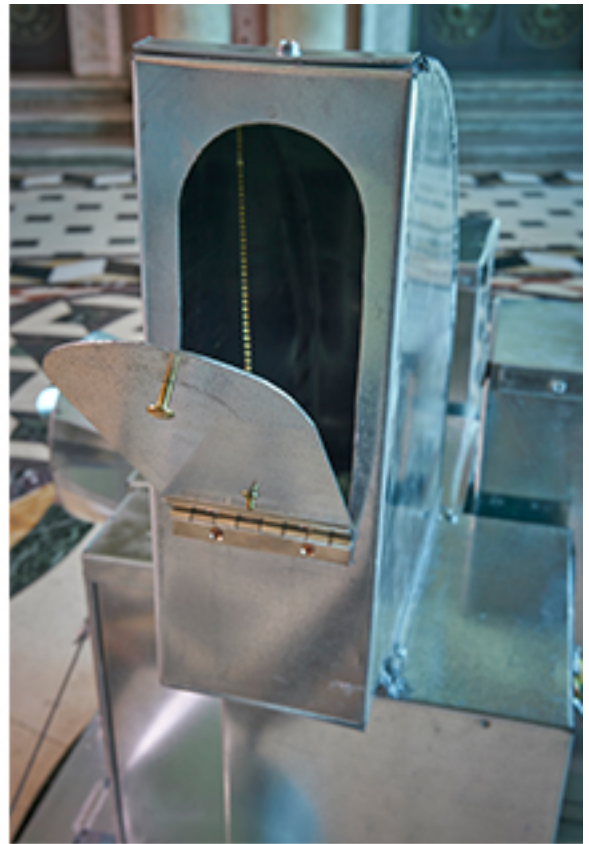
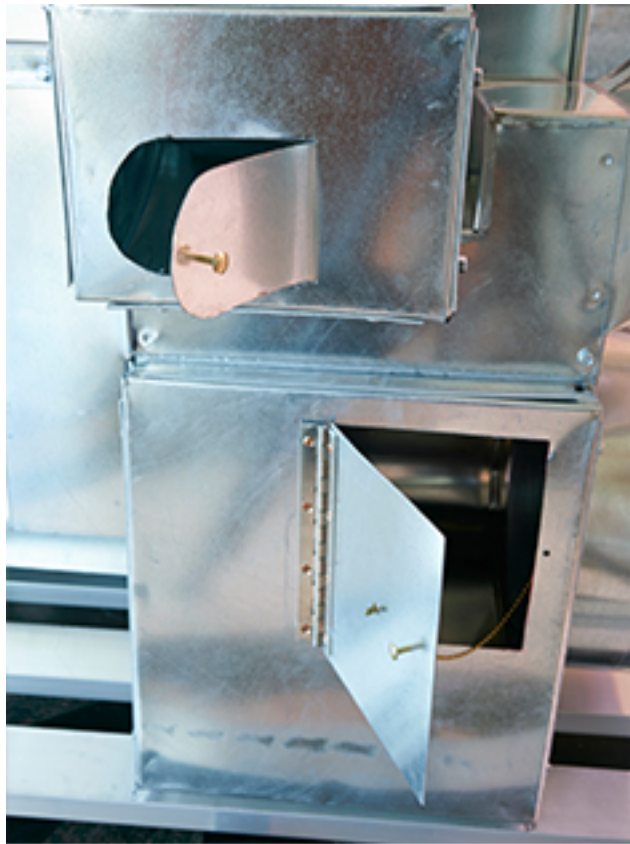
Detail, *The Aesthete and the Socialite*





*The Industrialist*

Owl cage made from galvanized HVAC ducts and  
aluminum pallet with brass, steel and copper hardware



Detail, *The Industrialist*