

Artists in Residence in Everglades presents

## **Fragile: Works from the Everglades National Park Collection**

**June 1 - October 1, 2019**

AIRIE Nest Gallery  
Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, Everglades National Park  
40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034

Artists: Keren Anavy and Tal Frank, Franky Cruz, Naomi Fisher, Itamar Freed and Courtney Scheu, Karen Glaser, Brookhart Jonquil, Ana Mendez, Sara Beth Rabinowitz and Rebecca Reeve

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Homestead, FL – Artists in Residence in Everglades (AIRIE) presents *Fragile*, a multi-media exhibition exposing and examining the delicate fragility of the Everglades ecosystem. Comprised of works by 11 multidisciplinary artists who have gone through the AIRIE residency, living and working for an entire month in Everglades National Park, *Fragile* unearths new perspectives on the intricate and complex systems in which the vastness of the River of Grass operates.

*Fragile* opens in the AIRIE Nest Gallery in Everglades National Park on June 1st and will be on view through October 1st, 2019. The gallery is located in the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center at the southeastern entrance to the Everglades National Park, outside of Homestead, FL (40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034.) Gallery hours are 9am-5pm everyday.

Featured in the exhibition are Israeli artists/collaborators **Keren Anavy and Tal Frank** (2018), Miami-based visual artists **Franky Cruz** (2015) and **Naomi Fisher** (2013), Israeli and Australian collaborators **Itamar Freed and Courtney Scheu** (2019), Florida-based photographer **Karen Glaser** (2009), Miami-based sculptor **Brookhart Jonquil** (2016), Miami-based performance artist **Ana Mendez** (2013), Savannah based fiber artist **Sara Beth Rabinowitz** (2014) and British artist **Rebecca Reeve** (2012).

*Fragile* echoes the delicate balance at play in the Everglades. Photography by Keren Anavy and Tal Frank, Karen Glaser and Rebecca Reeve key into supplanted forms and the human interaction inside the wilderness of the Everglades' forests, swamps and prairies. Prints by Ana Mendez and Franky Cruz and a video by Naomi Fisher show glimpses of performances set in the Glades with characters that invade, transform and adapt to the wilderness that engulfs them.

Sculptural work by Brookhart Jonquil offers a stark contrast to the natural environs of the Everglades. Sharp edges and crisp lines created by panes mirror evoke a precarious balance of gravity. A kinetic water sculpture by Itamar Freed and Courtney Scheu artfully captures the ebb and flow of the Everglades' tides and the water table's powerful effect on the lands it washes over.

Fiber-based work by Sara Beth Rabinowitz weaves together a monochrome world of delicate natural forms, invoking the shapes and charting the trails of some of the Everglades' smallest, yet perhaps most resilient insect populations.

Spanning the southern tip of the Florida peninsula and most of Florida Bay, Everglades National Park is the only subtropical wilderness in North America. Following their residency experience, each AIRIE Fellow donates an artwork to the Everglades National Park permanent art collection. For *Fragile*, AIRIE Creative Director Deborah Mitchell selected works from the collection that address the concept of fragility; bringing together works that explore the notion of the easily broken, the fine or the frail. This delicate concept is readily applied to the contested landscape of the Everglades, where decades of human intervention have modified areas of the iconic landscape beyond recognition.

This exhibition was made possible with support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, AIRIE donors and members.

### **ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE IN EVERGLADES (AIRIE)**

Exhibitions and programs presented by Artists in Residence in Everglades (AIRIE) draw upon the creative voices of AIRIE Fellows to advocate for the appreciation and preservation of this subtropical wilderness. AIRIE's mission is to support and enhance the arts and cultural heritage of the Everglades wilderness by informing, connecting, and supporting artists, writers and musicians who wish to be ambassadors for the Everglades with a month-long residencies in the Park and developing exhibitions and public programs.

Since 2001, AIRIE has brought over 185 artists, writers, composers and choreographers to Everglades National Park for month-long residencies. Through the residency, exhibitions and outreach programs, both in the Park and at partnering institutions throughout South Florida, AIRIE has become a leading voice for the arts and ecology of the region.

With the support of a 2017 Knight Arts Challenge Grant, AIRIE transformed a former conference room in the Everglades National Park's main visitor center, into a stunning exhibition space. The interdisciplinary contemporary art exhibitions presented there connect the ecology and cultural history of the Everglades and highlight art and science collaborations. The Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center receives over 250,000 visitors from around the world, giving AIRIE exhibitions

international exposure. AIRIE Nest Gallery ensures that visitors' first impression of the Everglades is through an artistic lens.

Artists in Residence in Everglades, Inc. is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the State of Florida, and the Florida Humanities Council. Artists in Residence in Everglades, Inc. is an Official Partner of the Everglades National Park.

High resolution images available, contact [rupert@airie.org](mailto:rupert@airie.org).



Rebecca Reeve, *Untitled #4 (Marjory's World)*, 2013



*Fragile* gallery views, image courtesy Artists in Residence in Everglades (AIRIE), © Steven Brooke