Stepping Into the Newly Realized and Relevant Bruce Museum of Art and Science

By Anne W. Semmes

In the Q&A following the talk, questions were asked of why a golf course was chosen for their diorama. "When we were asked if there was a project that they wanted to do, they thought about a golf course," said Rockman. "It's a place where we get a sense of the interweaving of ecology and economics, and how they work together." Dion added, "It's such a poor example of land use. It needs enormous amounts of chemicals to continue it...but at the same time, just think that golf is a disaster for everyone involved and a horrible waste of resources." When you go on to a golf course, there's lots of animals. "And that's something humans as a species really need to think about," interjected Walsh. "And that's what I love about your art is that sculptural diorama of the earth. The cabinet with all of the plastic in it; the earth is telling di..." "And that's something humans as a species really need to think about," interjected Walsh. "And that's what I love about your art is that sculptural diorama of the earth. The cabinet with all of the plastic in it; the earth is telling di..."

Dion was drawn to the scrapbooks, and as Howes had also traveled to Guyana with naturalist William Beebe, he was awed "to see things that really told the story also had a kind of beauty that really lives in that ambiguous space between art and science." Museum," added Dion, "because of this unique relationship between art and natural history, which you don't find everywhere. The activity of all three to create a "cabinet" in the exhibition filled with chosen historical pieces of the Bruce Museum. Some 53 items were chosen Walsh told of material primarily collected by curator Howes. The selection included rare specimens from the Bruce Museum's archives. Photo by Parker Gray.

These two artists have shared their passions and curiosity for the natural world for over 30 years, having traveled together to tropical countries in search of unique specimens for their art. "I like to tell stories," said Rockman, "and I know Mark does as well. And one of the things that Mark and I like to challenge ourselves with is telling di..." "I like to tell stories," said Rockman, "and I know Mark does as well. And one of the things that Mark and I like to challenge ourselves with is telling di..."

"Take, for instance Rockman's vivid "Fever Dream" painting of a tree filled with assorted wildlife that depicts a vision of naturalist Griswold Howes and Edward Bigelow dating from over a century ago. This painting exemplifies the Bruce as a museum of both art and science. The art on display of these two renowned artists, Dion and Rockman, both entranced by the natural world, illustrate most vividly the impact of scientific discoveries of the day, including climate change, to current events." He added, "For me the most pleasurable part of the process is making right this research." In the Q&A following the talk was of why a golf course was chosen for their diorama. "When we were asked if there was a project that they wanted to do, they thought about a golf course," said Rockman. "It's a place where we get a sense of the interweaving of ecology and economics, and how they work together." Dion added, "It's such a poor example of land use. It needs enormous amounts of chemicals to continue it...but at the same time, just think that golf is a disaster for everyone involved and a horrible waste of resources." When you go on to a golf course, there's lots of animals. "And that's something humans as a species really need to think about," interjected Walsh. "And that's what I love about your art is that sculptural diorama of the earth. The cabinet with all of the plastic in it; the earth is telling di..." "And that's something humans as a species really need to think about," interjected Walsh. "And that's what I love about your art is that sculptural diorama of the earth. The cabinet with all of the plastic in it; the earth is telling di..."