



Pérez Art Museum Miami
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***Project Gallery: Bik Van der Pol
Speechless***

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What kinds of birds are on display in Bik Van der Pol's *Speechless*?

A: There are five birds on display in the exhibition: one pair of African Grey parrots, one pair of double yellow-headed Amazon parrots, and one lesser sulphur-crested Cockatoo. All five were bred in captivity for public exhibition.

Q: Where did the parrots come from?

A: The five birds on loan to the museum from the same private individual. They were bred in captivity and regularly appear in a variety of public capacities, such as movies, commercials and public events. They lived together before the PAMM exhibition and will live together after the exhibition closes.

Q: How are the parrots being cared for?

A: The museum has enlisted one of the nation's top avian veterinarians to manage the care of the parrots throughout the exhibition's run. The veterinarian will visit the birds weekly, and has trained a team of caretakers specifically for the exhibition to feed and interact with the birds and to clean their aviary every evening. Between the caretaker's visits, specially trained museum staff and volunteers continuously monitor the parrots.

Q: How was the parrots' aviary designed?

A: The aviary was built under the direction of the avian veterinarian, and was designed to create a safe and stimulating, enriched environment for the birds. The veterinarian provided counsel regarding the amount of space needed, the materials used, the conditions and surroundings including ambient sound.

Q: Where do the parrots sleep?

A: Each night, the shades in the gallery will be closed and lights in surrounding areas will be turned off to create a quiet, dark environment within the aviary, appropriate for the parrots' needs. The museum has also designated a private space outside the gallery, should the parrots ever need to be temporarily removed from the aviary.





Q: What happens to the parrots in an emergency situation, such as a hurricane?

A: In the event of an emergency or natural disaster, the parrots will be taken to a safe and appropriate environment.

Q: Is the public able to interact with the parrots?

A: No; the parrots will only be handled by their trained caretakers and veterinarian. While visitors are able to see and hear the parrots—and are seen and heard by the parrots in return—the enclosure does not allow direct contact.

Q: Where will the parrots go after the exhibition?

A: The parrots will be returned to their owner. They are not available for sale or adoption.

