

PRESS RELEASE

ADRIAN NIVOLA

September 3 – October 4, 2021

Rare Birds & The Architecture of the Instrument



Pochette for Braque, 2018, wood and enamel, 11 x 4 x 3 ¼ inches



Owl, 2020, steel wire, 6 1/4 x 2 1/2 x 3 inches

From September 3 through October 4, 2021 The Drawing Room is pleased to present wire and wood sculpture by Adrian Nivola from two series: *The Architecture of the Instrument* and *Rare Birds*. The artist's third show at the gallery is a lively installation that combines wall sculptures of imaginary lutes and guitars with an aviary of beaded wire birds. Inspired at an early age by Alexander Calder's *Circus*, Nivola configures his objects with characteristic workmanship and delicate assemblage techniques to give each work an original presence.

With titles such as *Samurai Falcon*, *Imperial Warbler* and *Lear's Woodpecker* the life size wrought wire birds are presented on perches, in flight and on pedestals which invite viewing in the round. Inspired by David Attenborough's 2015 documentary, *Paradise Birds*, each of Nivola's silhouetted wire forms captures the dance and physiognomy of an imagined bird, reflecting the artist's awe at the infinite variations that evolution fosters in our natural world.

On the walls opposite the birds, Nivola presents the larger wood instruments from his ongoing series, *The Architecture of the Instrument*. A talented pianist and jazz aficionado, Nivola's love of musical traditions has earned him a deep appreciation of the purposeful designs of orchestral instruments.

Always in search of materials, he scavenges junk stores and music shops for discarded parts to construct his invented musical objects merging boats, temple architecture and sound. In the largest sculpture, *The Pheasant Harp*, the long profile of the stately bird with its carved feathers holds taut the harp's strings. Inlaying woods to emulate the artistry of historical models, Nivola fastens found guitar bridges to the neck of the *Chamber Guitar* and whittles key pegs in *Pochette For Braque*, lyrical forms conceived to remain silent.

Adrian Nivola inherits his artistic gifts from his grandparents Ruth and Costantino Nivola with whom he spent many summers in The Springs. In particular, his meticulous handwork with salvaged materials and wire is inspired by his admiration for Ruth Nivola's crocheted and braided jewelry and her use of beads and bits of treasured textiles. At his grandparents' home, garden and studios, Adrian absorbed a transformative philosophy of life in art as autobiography.

For further information and reproduction quality images
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