

Stephen Whisler

Statement

I began making *For the Birds*, a series of coffin-shaped wooden birdhouses painted in bright colors, in 1993. Since that time I have continued to produce the birdhouses off and on, sometimes in painted wood or made with exotic wood veneers. They can be exhibited as a single sculpture, or installed as a flock.

There is obviously an ironic interplay between the intent of the birdhouse and that of the coffin, as well as the meaning of the statement “it’s for the birds” and something actually made “for the birds”. They are at once a light-hearted joke and a serious statement about the death and disappearance of bird species. Would the birds get the irony?