

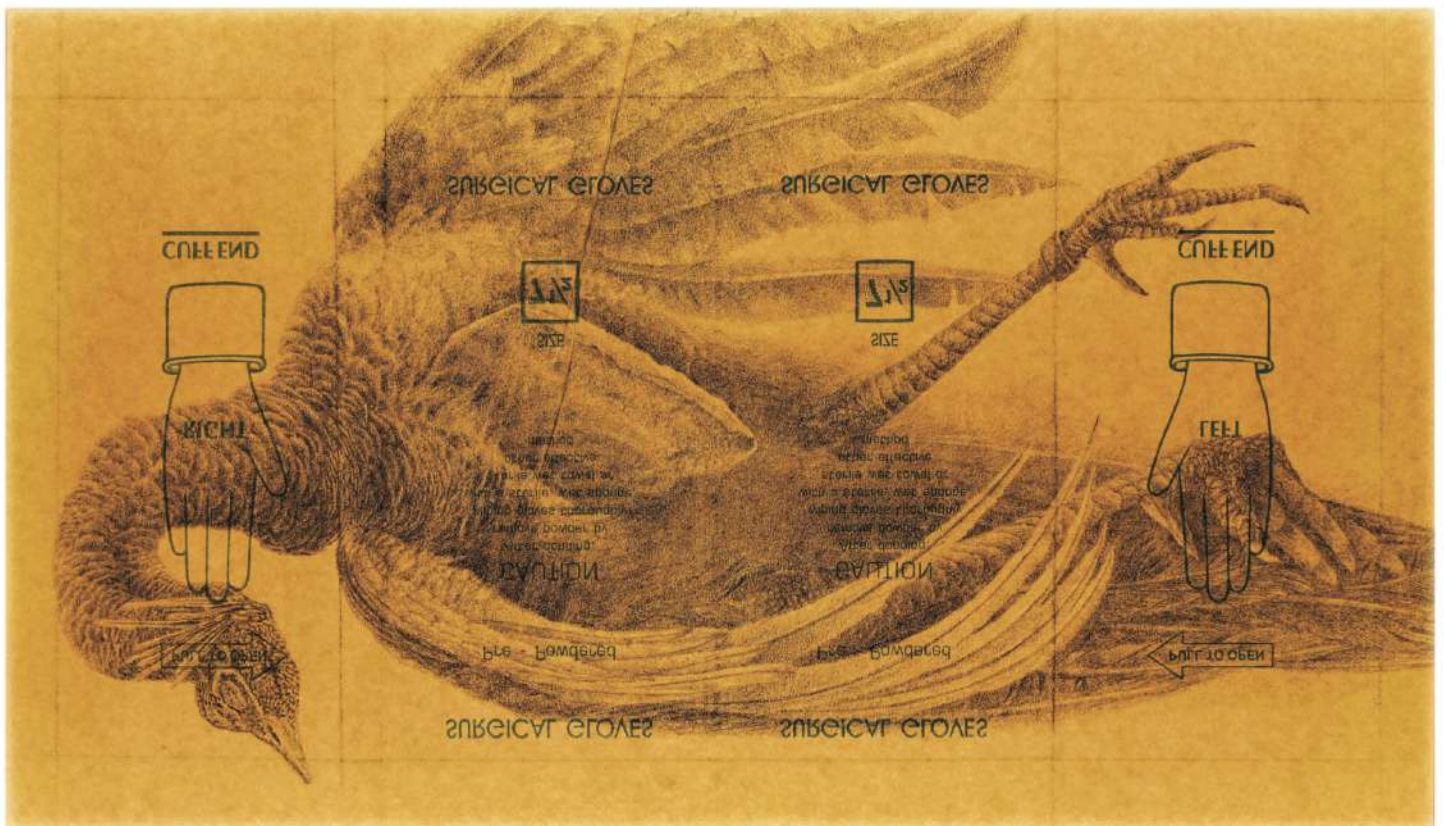
"Like natural wonders, these heterogeneous creations were united by the psychology of wonder, drawing their emotional effect from their rarity and the mysteriousness of the forces and mechanisms that made them work... The wonders of art, then, like the wonders of nature, embodied a form of symbolic power - over nature, over others, and over oneself. Men versed in the knowledge of natural properties could use them to work marvels, turning day into night, controlling the weather, eliminating disease and decay... Automata functioned as ideal servants: beings useful for the discipline and surveillance of others, and over whom their owners could have in turn perfect control."

- Wonders and the Order of Nature, Lorraine Daston, Katharine Park

Garima Gupta

A Bird in Hand / The perfect pet | 2020 | Graphite on paper | Artwork inside lightbox
(one of 11 drawings based on the 11 sub headings from Jean Baudrillard essay System of Collecting. Each correlates to an anecdote from the field.)

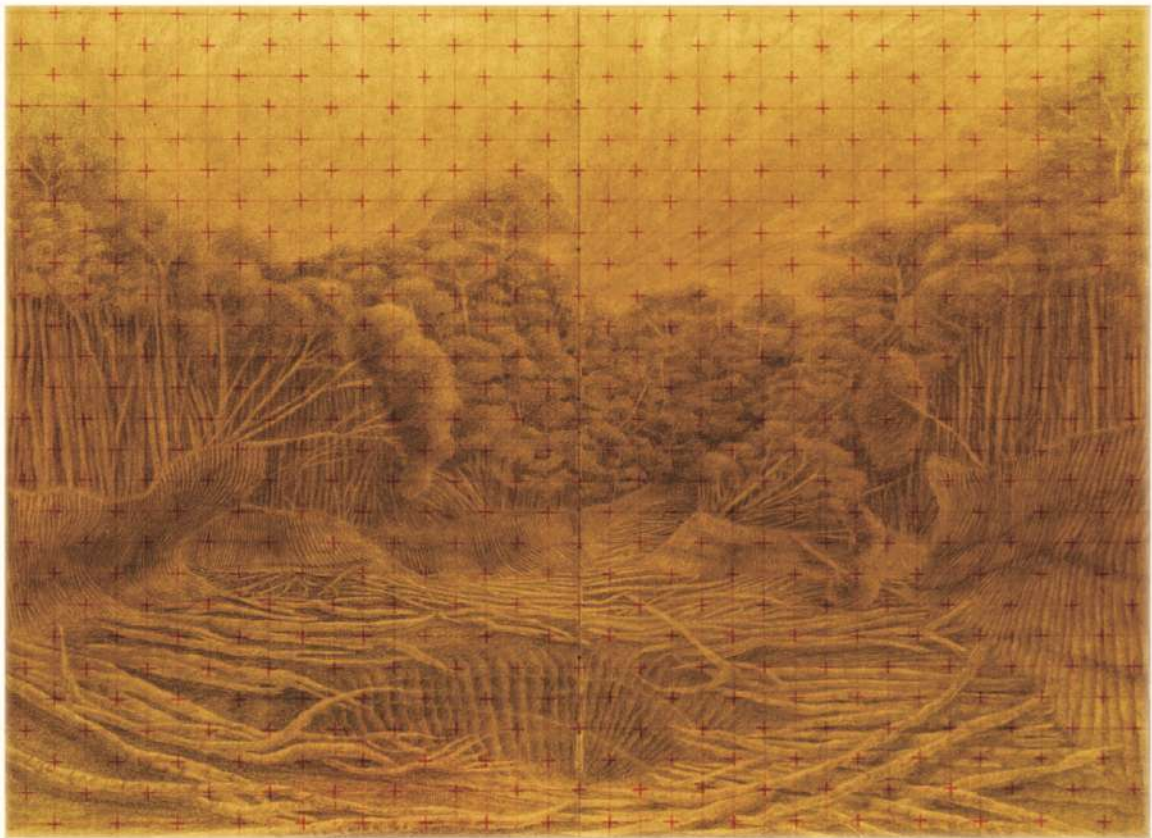
The German Bird boxes, an early automaton, were the idea of a bird constructed from real bird feathers and mechanical gears. On winding the box, a bird would chirp, flap its wings and sing - it was a perfect pet that performed with minimal association and worldly requirements.



Garima Gupta

Hello Darling! | 2020 | graphite on surgical gloves wrapping sheet

This drawing is an outtake from an interview with a taxidermist in Thailand. It documents the process and act of opening a dead bird to fill it back in order to make the dead seem alive. Each year, taxidermy continues to exploit endangered species. Markets in Southeast Asia continue to cater to the fantasy of Western countries and their collections.



Garima Gupta

Jalan Korea | 2020 | graphite on paper | Artwork on lightbox

In *Babaisa*, Jalan means road. Since the forest was sanctioned to a Korean company for logging, the road came to be known as Jalan Korea. This drawing is an outtake from an interview with two conservationists who spoke about the future of the ravaged landscape after logging would come to an end. The cross markings in red are at the back of this artwork. They represent the equidistant and clinical plantation of the Oil Palms that is likely to replace the ravaged logging landscapes of Jalan Korea.



Garima Gupta

Bazaar / A New Species Found | 2020 | graphite on paper/ red carbon transfer on paper

Documentation of the many markets of Southeast Asia where imitation-ecology is a new commodity.