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"RARE SPECIMEN"

From 1869 to 1877, before it moved into its home on Central Park West, the American Museum of Natural History displayed its specimens in the Arsenal, in Central Park. Those galleries are again turned to meditations on the natural world with this surprisingly witty group show, featuring work by Karin Weiner, Alexis Rockman, Wes Lang, and several other artists. Emilie Clark's dreamy, vaguely botanical watercolors provide a cozy counterpoint to Jeff Hoppa's white-grounded pencil drawings of skulls and skeletons; Mark Dion sketches a birder's kit, complete with guidebooks and a folding stool; Walton Ford's three-toed kingfisher clasps a fishing lure in its beak. Through April 12. (The Arsenal Gallery, in Central Park, entrance at 64th St. and Fifth Ave. For more information, call 311.)