

Memorandum



Date: September 13, 2022

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Michael Spring, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-42 Rockne Krebs, Deaccession "Transparent Paper Airplanes"

Trust Resolution No. APPT 22-42

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DEACCESSION OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES (APP) COLLECTION ARTWORK "TRANSPARENT PAPER AIRPLANES" (1983) BY ROCKNE KREBS PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ART IN PUBLIC PLACES DEACCESSION POLICY.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the deaccession of APP collection artwork "Transparent Paper Airplanes" (1983) by Rockne Krebs pursuant to Section 2.2 of the Department of Cultural Affairs Art in Public Places Deaccession Policy.

Background

In 1982, artist Rockne Krebs was commissioned by the Art in Public Places Trust to create the artwork "Transparent Paper Airplanes" for an atrium space within Concourse E at the Miami International Airport (MIA). The site-specific installation was comprised of four elements: a series of five (5) plexiglass forms each approximately 8' X 6' x 2' in the shape of paper airplanes, dispersed sunlight, neon tubing, and 300 prisms. APP retains images of the original installation of the work in the configuration and complete elements as intended by the artist.

In 2010, subsequent development at MIA, including the reconfiguration of Concourse E, required the artwork to be removed and temporarily stored at MIA with the intent of finding a suitable location for its reinstatement as originally created by the artist. The airport, without APP's acknowledgment or coordination, assigned the removal of the work to one of its construction subcontractors which caused significant damage to the prisms and neon components of the piece. Additionally, one of the large plexiglass planes was lost in transit to the designated storage. In 2012, the Aviation Department asked APP staff to take possession of the remaining elements of the artwork, this being the first time that APP was made aware of the artwork removal and its poor condition. It should be noted that since this time, coordination between APP staff and the Aviation

Department has improved significantly and it is understood that public artworks are not to be moved and/or repaired without the involvement of APP staff.

In 2014, while completing the appraisal of the APP Collection, Gurr Johns noted that “four (4) plexiglass forms were all that remained of this work with one plexiglass form missing, and both the neon and prisms broken, discarded, and or destroyed.” Since then, the remains have been in storage at the Art in Public Places offices at 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 625, Miami FL 33128.

At a meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) on August 19, 2022, the PAC concurred with APP’s recommendation to deaccession Rockne Krebs “Transparent Paper Airplanes” on the following grounds:

2.2.2 DAMAGE BEYOND REASONABLE REPAIR – *The artwork has been damaged... to the extent that it no longer represents the artist's intent...and the expenses of restoration and repair are found to equal or exceed current market value of the artwork.*

- To help evaluate the cost of the repairs in relationship to the current value of the work, APP staff requested an opinion of value from two personal property appraisers who only found a handful of similar Plexiglass artworks by the artist presented for sale in the last decade for an unknown or undisclosed value.
- Both appraisers opined that given the market for the artist and the condition of the work, the appraisers’ opinion on the current value would be close to or lower than the \$6,000.00 as previously appraised by Gurr Jones in 2014.
- Based on recent costs of various artwork restorations, APP estimates the potential costs of repair and installation of this work to be in the range of 40-50% of the original \$70,000.00 commission value in 1982.
- It should be noted that Rockne Krebs died in 2011 and consequently, the artist cannot guide the refabrication of the missing elements and assess the suitability of relocation to another site, even if one were to be identified.

2.2.3 LACK OF SUITABLE SITE & 2.2.4 SITE ALTERATION

- Since 2014, APP has worked unsuccessfully with the Aviation Department to find a suitable location within the airport grounds that would merit the repair of this work, originally commissioned by the Trust at a value of \$ 70,000.00.
- The specific site conditions required to achieve the artist’s original installation intent are currently non-existent and there are no future renovation or expansion plans to accommodate such need within Miami International Airport.
- Artworks commissioned or acquired with airport-generated funds can only be sited on airport-owned property, further restricting options to find alternate locations that are suitable for the work.

Memorandum



Pursuant to Section 2.2 of the Art in Public Places Deaccession Policy, it is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the deaccession of Rockne Krebs "Transparent Paper Airplanes," along with the removal, destruction, and disposal of all remains.