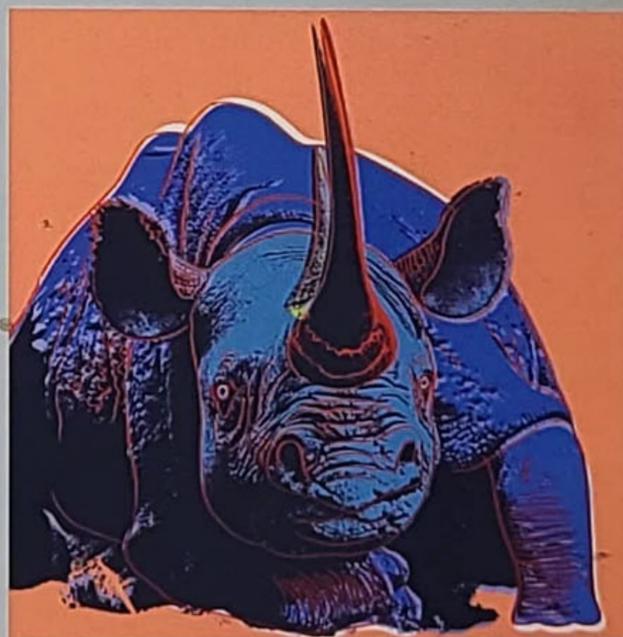
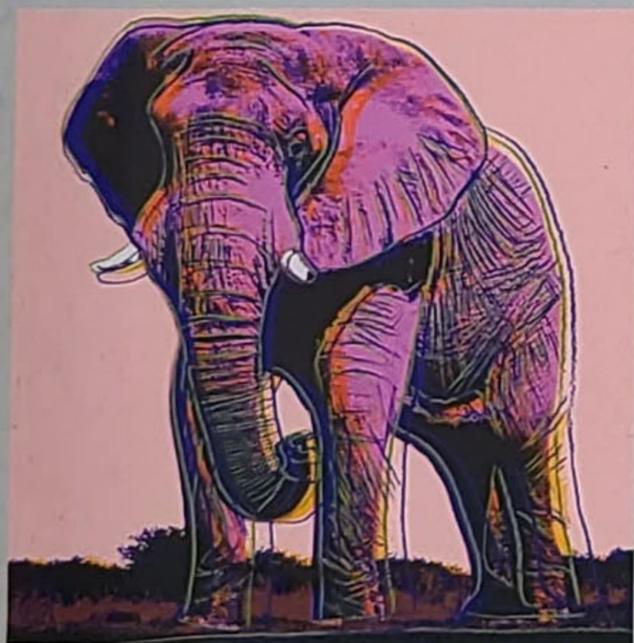


ENDANGERED SPECIES

ARTISTS ON THE FRONT LINE OF BIODIVERSITY



Harri Kallio

American, b. Finland, 1970
Les Gris Gris #3, Mauritius, from
The Dodo and Mauritius Island,
Imaginary Encounters, 2004
Archival inkjet print
29½ x 36 in.
Courtesy of the artist

The large, flightless dodo bird intrigued Harri Kallio while reading Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865). He was particularly drawn to an illustration by John Tenniel, who prominently portrayed the dodo alongside the book's heroine. Tenniel, in turn, was captivated by a portrait of the bird painted by the seventeenth-century Dutch artist Roelant Savery.

Kallio created two life-sized dodo sculptures based on these earlier artistic interpretations and the meager skeletal remains that exist. He then strategically sited his reconstructions in the dodo's native habitat on Mauritius Island, located twelve hundred miles off the African coast in the Indian Ocean. He produced a series of photographs and wrote a fascinating history of the dodo that resulted in an award-winning book, *The Dodo and Mauritius Island: Imaginary Encounters* (2004).

Now recognized as the largest member of the pigeon family, the dodo became extinct eighty-three years after Dutch sailors landed on Mauritius Island in 1598. Although eaten by sailors who clubbed the birds to death, the dodo's demise has been linked to the invasive species—rats, pigs, and monkeys—transported on ships. These exotic animals ate the dodo's eggs, trampled its environment, and outcompeted the bird for food.

In *Les Gris Gris #3*, named after the geographic locale of this photograph, Kallio resurrects a lost world of helpless birds that could not fly away to safety. The artist's imaginary encounters with the dodo poignantly evokes potential scenarios facing endangered species today.



JOHN TENNIEL, *A Caucus-Race and a Long Tale*, illustration from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, 1865.

