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NEWSROOM

Mike and Doug Starn Debut Furniture

The artist brothers show their line at Cristina Grajales Gallery

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A selection of furniture by Doug and Mike Starn at Cristina Grajales Gallery.
Photo: Courtesy of Cristina Grajales Gallery

In an *AD* story on *artist brothers Mike and Doug Starn* this February, Mike summed up their artistic output as such: “Our vision is that nothing in the world is monolithic, nothing is one thing—everything is interconnected.” Such an attitude holds true in the

brothers' latest project, in which they make the foray from art to something a bit more functional: furniture.



A close-up of the furniture.

Photo: Courtesy of Cristina Grajales Gallery

Though *Sits Like a Man, But Smiles Like a Reptile*, which debuted on Friday at New York's *Cristina Grajales Gallery*, is ostensibly a show of furniture, it is perhaps best viewed as an extension of the twins' art. In 2010, the Starns installed *Big Bambú* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where the massive sculpture of interconnecting bamboo poles was the institution's ninth most attended exhibition in history.

"All our artwork is meant to be part of life, whether its the *Big Bambú* work, our scotch-taped photographs, tattered photos of moths, or painted over record albums," the brothers say. "This is not 'don't touch' artwork. We want people to to walk on it, listen to it, hold it. Going back to the Metropolitan Museum, we had a living room up in the elevated paths. By the end of the 6 month exhibition, furniture was growing in the bamboo like fruit in a tree."

Sits Like a Man, But Smiles Like a Reptile adapts this concept on a more personal scale in the form of chaise longues, benches, and peacock chairs of bamboo bound with rock-climbing cord into beguiling, nestlike forms. "They are sculptures you are meant to hang out in, hang out with your friends, fall asleep on," explain the brothers. If ever you wanted to live within art, this is your chance.