

From 1982 on, Pierre Courtois mostly created 'boxes' devoted to the world of nature. One can sense the importance given to the vegetal realm as well as to birds of prey. These boxes are mainly characterised by their highly compartmentalised nature. Openings on their sides give a different point of view of the inside, multiplying the optical complexity of the works. *La Buse piégée sur un piquet (Buzzard Caught on a Fence Post)* (1982) focuses on the bird of prey. For the artist, the bird of prey embodies the concept of verticality in more than one sense. These birds mark and hunt vertically. They are also at the top of the food chain. At the centre of the box, one can see bones of birds overhanging two buzzards' eggs. On either side of the remains, an oil painting shows one red marker, one white marker and a drawing of a bird of prey. The museum-like character of these works, created from wine cases, is obvious. All the 'nature' boxes created in 1982 remind us of the archaeological displays in a museum of natural history. At a philosophical level, they are a reflexion on life and death as well as on the passing of time.

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