For Immediate Release

Media contact: communications@tropicalaudubon.org

"Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future" Tropical Audubon Society Exhibit

Wirtz Gallery Opening Night Reception Friday, February 11, 6-8pm 2022

MIAMI, Fla. — Attend the free opening night reception celebrating the February Wirtz Gallery exhibit titled "**Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future**" — an intimate look at <u>Tropical Audubon Society's</u> 75-year trajectory, our deep local roots and crucial conservation mission. This colorful and captivating illustrated history will be brought to life via vintage and contemporary images, iconic "Double Elephant" Folio John James Audubon prints, canvases by South Florida wildlife painter <u>Patricia Cummins</u> and bird photographs by visual storyteller <u>Federico Acevedo</u>.

The month-long exhibit will also illuminate our society's benefactor, South Miami-area pioneer Arden Hayes "Doc" Thomas, the gift of his now-historic 1932 cottage to our organization, and our commitment to protecting South Florida wildlife and preserving our region's diverse habitats and natural resources. (The opening night reception is subject to postponement or cancellation pending February pandemic status/protocols.)

"Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future" will hang in The Wirtz Gallery from February 1-28; Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday, 9-4, Friday 9-5.

Located within the <u>First National Bank of South Miami</u> lobby, <u>The Wirtz Gallery</u> is a distinguished public art space featuring month-long exhibits by local, national and international artists. It opened in 1983 in memoriam to past bank Chairman of the Board Arthur M. Wirtz, who was a distinguished Patron of the Arts.

RSVP for the Opening Night Reception, Friday, February 11, 6-8pm.

First National Bank of South Miami 5750 Sunset Drive, South Miami, 33143

Limited free on-site parking directly behind the bank on S.W. 73rd Street.