

THE FRONT

HOCK E AYE VI EDGAR HEAP OF BIRDS

Native Hosts, 1991/2007. Commercially prepared aluminum street sign.
Collection of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, The University
of British Columbia. Gift of the artist.

The *Native Hosts* project is an ongoing series of public art interventions that have been deployed throughout the United States and Canada for nearly thirty years. These expressions honouring Indigenous citizens from communities both ancient and contemporary, seek to educate the non-Native public as to what tribal grounds and histories they may be walking over, as well as truly which Indigenous territory everyone on the continent sleeps each night. The tribal spirits who inhabited and do inhabit these lands, sometimes called “Turtle Island”, are present and deserve acknowledgment which is greatly lacking.

The reversal or backwards treatment of the colonial names of states and provinces found on each *Native Hosts* panel is meant to turn around the state or province and their occupants in order to see this original Native world in a new manner. As in any proper decorum it is fitting, before one proceeds in life, to properly recognize one’s host.