



## Hunt, Perky & Kitu

Perky, a yellow-naped Amazon parrot, and Kitu, a purebred Abyssinian cat, live in artist Hunt Slonem's enormous studio/loft/aviary. "Perky's the cutest bird I own," says Slonem—not that he likes to play favorites among his 20 or 30 free-flying avian roommates. "I've lived with birds ever since I lived in Hawaii. They've influenced my work tremendously. I like them more than I like most people."

**Age before beauty** "I've had Perky around seven years; he came from a woman who could no longer care for him. He's about 21. Kitu's 9 now. He grew up with the birds."

**Sing for your supper** "Perky has a big personality and he's a great talker. He also sings a lot—'Happy Birthday,' a little opera—especially when he wants attention."

**Cat person** "Kitu thinks he's human. He loves people and dislikes other cats. He runs from room to room, checking out new pieces of furniture to see if they're comfortable."

**Posing perch** "Perky's a working bird: he models for me. He's also on TV and photographed a great deal. Kitu has his own projects."