

# The Golden Amphibian

More than 50% of your body is water. Water is life. You were once an aquatic creature, too. Before you started life outside the womb and Homo sapiens evolved into the form we know. Not that long ago and a very long time ago. That's relative. That is also the time in this exhibition. Here you will see evidence of evolution, images of creatures and rituals that originated thousands of years ago. Change in nature is relentless and difficult to predict. The question is how to capture it? In the eastern part of Mexico there is a region called the misty forests. This is a transition zone between aquatic and terrestrial systems for which either temporary or permanent flooding is typical. It is inhabited by creatures that thrive in both dry and wet environments. For most of the year, this land is drowned in fog, it rains a lot and you can feel the breeze of wet wind from the sea. Many of the photographs in this exhibition were taken in the transition zone, where new natural connections are being made every second.

Transition zone is a few hours away from Mexico City, where Fernando lives. Do you, too, live in an asphalt jungle where non-human nature can be experienced mainly through technology? If so, perhaps you will find it easier to understand his search for the non-human, or the human transformed in uncontrolled ways. In our Anthropocene reality, it's hard to find places where traces of the human are more subtle, but you might ask yourself why we actually seek it with such determination. In the exhibition you'll find images of monkeys from a shelter, eagles kept in illegal breeding, spectacular plants and pedigreed dogs. A true naturocultural entanglement. Do you have any idea how to untangle it?

I invite you to look for new connections, genealogies and flows of life. You look at images that sometimes reveal visual similarities, other times surprise you with juxtapositions. A world of specimens, an abundance of shapes and different functionalities. You are invited to delight. Delight is free. Delight is a relationship. And relationship invites responsibility. What impact do you have on what happens to the environment?

This story is about communication. What do hairless Aztec dogs and an angel's trumpet, plastic heads buried in the ground and two eggs broken in a glass of water have to say to you? There's a ritual in Mexico that involves touching a person's body with an egg, then keeping it nearby for 24 hours to do it the next day and get a health or energy reading. The meaning you give to these images depends on your knowledge and experience. A microscope photo, a posed shot of an animal or plant against a neutral background and an impressionistic travel photo will give you different information. Which is closer to you? Science? Art? Ritual? Maybe all of the above together?

Take a look at the photos of the Voladores ritual to summon rain, or the Dance of the Negritos (Dance of the Negritos) taming the fear of the viper and its toxic venom. At their root is the need to connect with what's around using "threads of understanding." Just as with studied photographs of plants or animals, or shots from a microscope. What do you want to learn? What knowledge to connect to? Don't censor yourself. Try to tread your path in this naturocultural jungle.

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