

## Fotografia Europea 2024: Nature loves to hide

Nature conceals its knowledge from our senses but reveals its power in ways that are at times destructive and, at other times, delicate. It can be understood as a process of being and becoming.

As humans **we seek the essential character of things** - animals, plants, rocks, rivers and weather systems - in an attempt to uncover nature and understand ourselves and the world around us. Yet **humans are a part of nature; part of a larger natural organism**. For all living things are connected to one another to form a 'global body' where boundaries dissolve or become inundated\*.

However, each creature's senses are different, depending on the survival instinct, therefore **reality is perceived as multiple and mutable**, fragmented and limited. Even the human mind has the ability to hide the truth from itself; from our true nature (except when dreaming). This paradoxical behaviour was of course famously summoned by **Heraclitus** when he ventured: *Nature loves to hide*.

**Fotografia Europea 2024 attempts to capture nature by exploring how concealment and discovery are interconnected.**

The rich and diverse photographic series brought together for this edition engage with this sense of double or co-existence as a part of all life on earth. The context is the **Anthropocene** and histories play out both at a **hyper local scale and on the planetary stage** to speak to ideas of **sybiosis, sustainability and climate emergency**.

It also looks to partly conjure the positive or transformative actions humans can commit amidst our species' otherwise dominant axis of control. In the process we undiscover the individual while celebrating **ecocentric consciousness** to imagine new narratives, forms and interpretations, presenting the various ways concepts of nature have been depicted, and in some cases, destabilised, through photography and film in the contemporary moment.

\*Daisy Hildyard, *The Second Body* (Fitzcarraldo Editions, 2017)