

Alex de Brabant

*On Earth*

## Alex de Brabant: *On Earth*

A selected constellation of recent photographs, 'On Earth' casts a dappled light over the complexity and interconnectedness of natural worlds. Presenting allegorical portraits, imagery of unique ecosystems and still lifes, the new images use careful attention to symbolism, composition, and an often psychedelic deployment of colour, to afford the viewer an experience of nature verging on the numinous – a spiritual encounter with nature.

Though they often hold pictorial space in strong, frontal compositions, the photos' inhabitants – whether human, plant, animal, or inanimate material – slip repeatedly into uncanniness. In *Cholla #01* (2024), a cactus's silhouette seems to disclose a secret dimension within the plant itself. Sometimes classical beauty – the stark angularity of stone in *Carrara* (2022) – counterpoints notes of innocent wonder; delicate yellow chicks nestle on a man's commodious body; an egg appears alone, as an object of worship. Several photos of psilocybin mushrooms ground the show. Their sizzling chroma swirls with mind-bending potential – an organic psychedelia that has, since time immemorial, dissolved egos and revealed the world for the tapestry of resonant phenomena that it is.

Across these works, irregardless of subject, a consistent attentiveness maintains. Here is the work's post-human ethos; understanding of the world which resonates with that articulated by Jane Bennett: "in a knotted world of vibrant matter," the philosopher wrote, "to harm one section of the web may very well be to harm oneself." Following this ethos, Alex has spent the last two decades using photography to reflect the entwinement of earthly life and material. Although his language has spanned portraiture and still life, it has also become an evolving testament to the likelihood that such categories, like hierarchical divisions between earth's inhabitants themselves, harm more than they help.

In practice, this has meant merging photography with hands-on work. 2020 marked Alex's first trip to Terra Alta, Portugal, where he began studying permaculture – a design system for creating sustainable human environments, based on close observations of natural systems. Although the road to this expanded practice began in the studio, it has always been defined by care. Preceding his 2009 relocation to Berlin, Alex's earliest portraits found each subject's character thrown into sharp relief, via a process grounded in vulnerability: every shutter click was preceded by a period of mutual acquaintance between photographer and sitter. Each picture therefore became marked by its subject's interior world, and the afterglow of social conviviality. In his subsequent output, chromatic and material experiments allowed the human face to merge with nature and dream space.

Having evolved through the years, this subtle psychedelia finds itself crystallised in 'On Earth.' The exhibition is, ultimately, a portrait of the interrelation of all things, and their always unfolding qualities.

*Psilocybe #01, 2022*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

60 x 75 cm

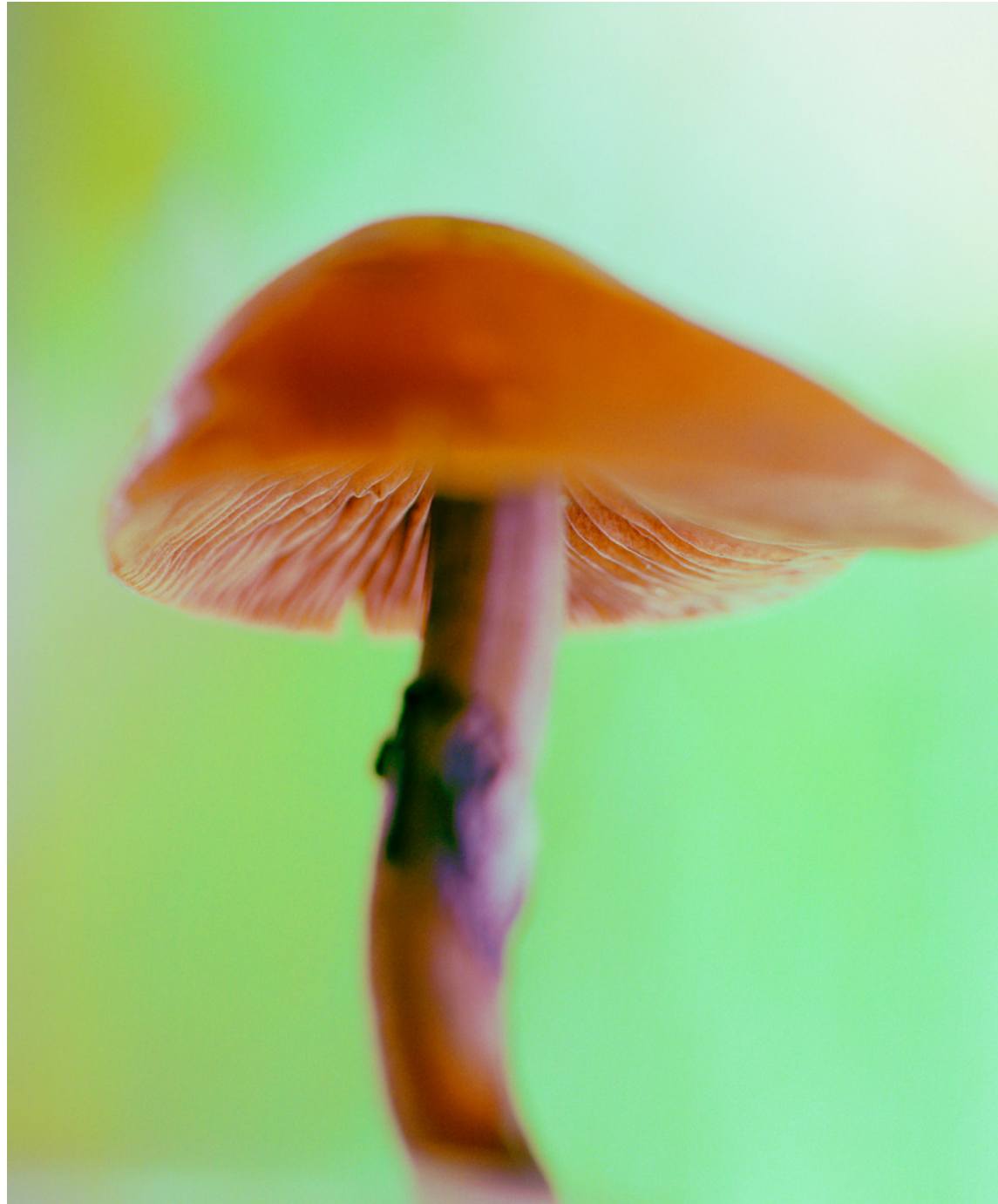
Edition of 7 + 1AP

1250,00€ *incl. VAT*

88 x 110 cm

Edition of 3 + 1AP

2000,00€ *incl. VAT*





*Psilocybe #02, 2022*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

60 x 75 cm  
Edition of 7 + 1AP  
1250,00€ *incl. VAT*

125 x 160 cm  
Edition of 3 + 1AP  
3250,00€ *incl. VAT*



*Psilocybe* #03, 2022

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

60 x 75 cm

Edition of 7 + 1AP

1250,00€ incl. VAT

88 x 110 cm

Edition of 3 + 1AP

2000,00€ incl. VAT



Carrara, 2022

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

160 x 200 cm  
Edition of 3 + 1AP  
5000,00€ incl. VAT

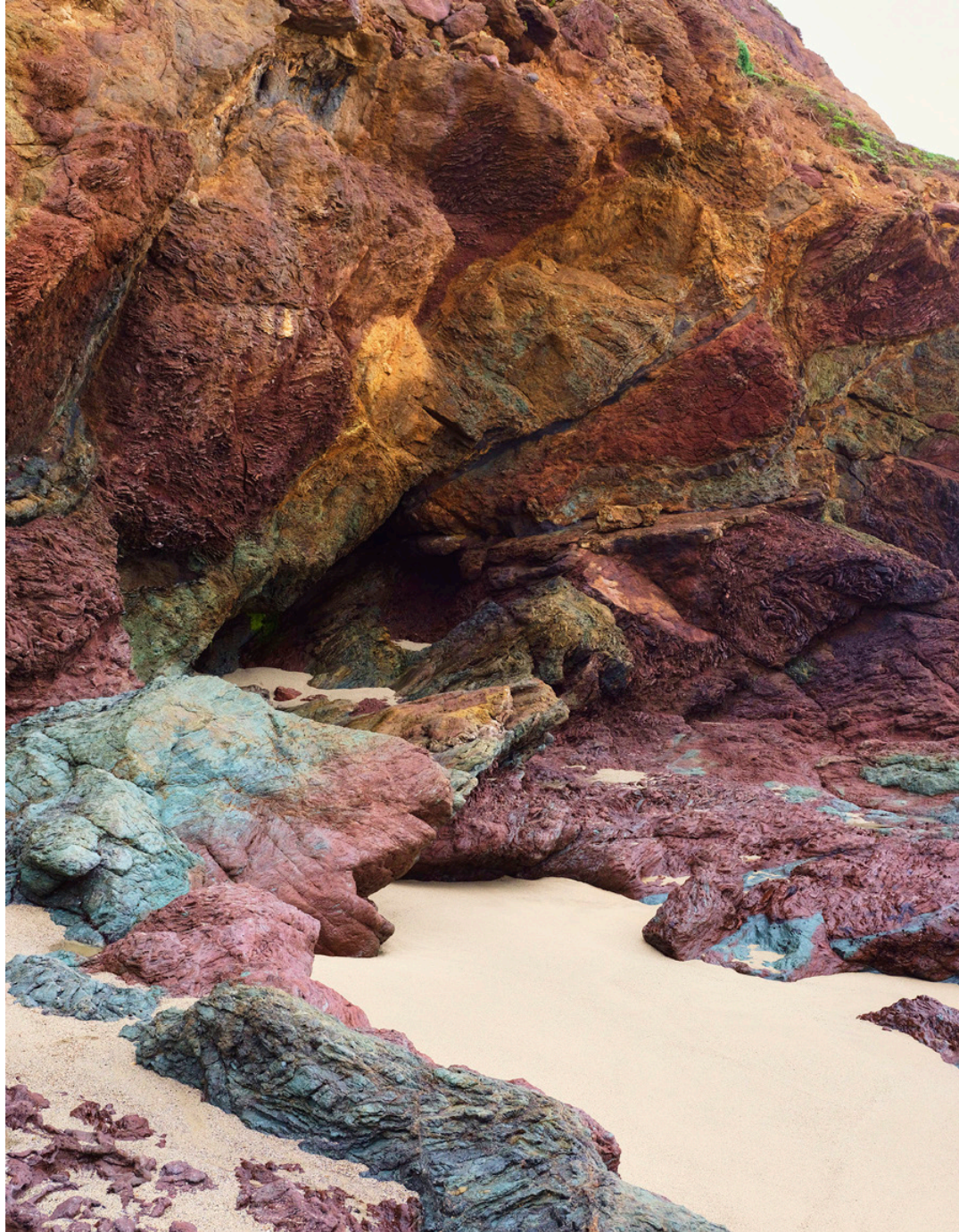




*Big Sur, 2020*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

110 x 150 cm  
Edition of 7 + 2AP  
2750,00€ *incl. VAT*





*Tumacacori, 2021*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

60 x 75 cm

Edition of 3 + 1AP

1850,00€ incl. VAT





*Ecosystem #03, 2024*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

110 x 150 cm

Edition of 3 + 1AP

2750,00€ *incl. VAT*





*Ecosystem #01, 2022*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

64 x 80 cm

Edition of 3 + 1AP

1850,00€ *incl. VAT*





H2O, 2022

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

40 x 50 cm

Edition of 5 + 1AP

1500,00€ incl. VAT



*Cholla #01, 2020*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

40 x 50 cm

Edition of 5 + 1AP

1500,00€ *incl. VAT*





*Nude #01, 2020*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

65 x 80 cm

Edition of 5 + 1AP

2250,00€ *incl. VAT*



Head #09, 2018

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

40 x 50 cm  
Edition of 3 + 1AP  
1250,00€ incl. VAT

120 x 150 cm  
Edition of 2 + 1AP  
2750,00€ incl. VAT





*Jiann Chyng-Tu, Chic, Hawk, 2018*

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

64 x 80 cm

Edition of 3 + 2AP

1900,00€ incl. VAT



*Cosmic Egg*, 2022

Archival pigment print on  
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

40 x 50 cm

Edition of 5 + 1AP

1500,00€ *incl. VAT*





## About the artist

*Alex de Brabant born in Montreal, Canada. (1984)*

For two decades, Alex de Brabant has developed a body of photography which, spanning portraiture and still life, relays the uncanny entwinement of all earthly life. Alex began his career specializing in portrait photography across the arts and cultural sector where he has portrayed artists and creatives such as *Olafur Eliasson, James Cameron, Natalie Portman* and *Morgan Freeman* for leading international publications. Since opening his studio in Berlin in 2012, he has shifted from commissioned work to focus on his own artistic practice, which have lead to his work being shown in group exhibitions in Berlin and Vienna.

Alex's work explores the boundaries of photographic form in artworks that range from the sculptural to the immersive. His passion for ecology and the natural world are at the core of his practice. As an autodidactic artist, Alex has honed his technique through much time studying the work of artists such as *Jeff Wall, Wolfgang Tillmans, and Ann Hardy*, which flicker between realism and allegory, social documentary and enchantment. Alex chooses his tools with care and specificity and has experimented extensively with analogue photography. His combination of medium and large format cameras, and slide film, affords warmth, colour range, and saturation that approximates the eye's perception of nature.

Alex's early portrait photographs found each subject's character thrown into sharp relief, via a process grounded in intimacy and vulnerability; always, the first click of the shutter was preceded by a period of getting to know one another.

This work prepared the ground for a deeper move into nature. 2020 marked Alex's first trip to Terra Alta, Portugal, where he studied permaculture — a design system for creating sustainable human environments, based on close observations of natural systems. In turn, his ecological themes have become as politically consequential as they are magical.

## CONTACT

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