

Mantras

Patrícia De Abreu Oliveira

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, like all the rest of the world, I was restricted in my freedom of move-ment, resulting in a decrease in my photographic work, which I performed mainly outdoors. Barred from travelling, I nurtured the practice of botanical illustration as a meditative exercise of self-expression. This movement trig-gered a different photographic practice in me. Pointing my macro lenses to the plants around me, I saw a microcosm. I believe that my interior journey resonated in this new work, which mixes photography, botanical illustration and graphic design, based on mathematical equations, in which the concepts of geometry and arithmetic influence the compositions

I am inspired by the studies of pioneering masters of scientific representation of the natural world, especially Ernst Haeckel, whose study of marine zoology revealed to us the microscopic beauty of invisible forms. Inspired by his excellent work *Kunstformen der Natur*, I felt motivated to create a system that represented my own invented nature. In these images I use, as a generating matrix, the leaves of a succulent called Mother of Thousands, Kalanchoe laetivirens, which I got shortly before quarantine and since then has generated several other "daughters" here at home, with their fascinating power of multiplication.









