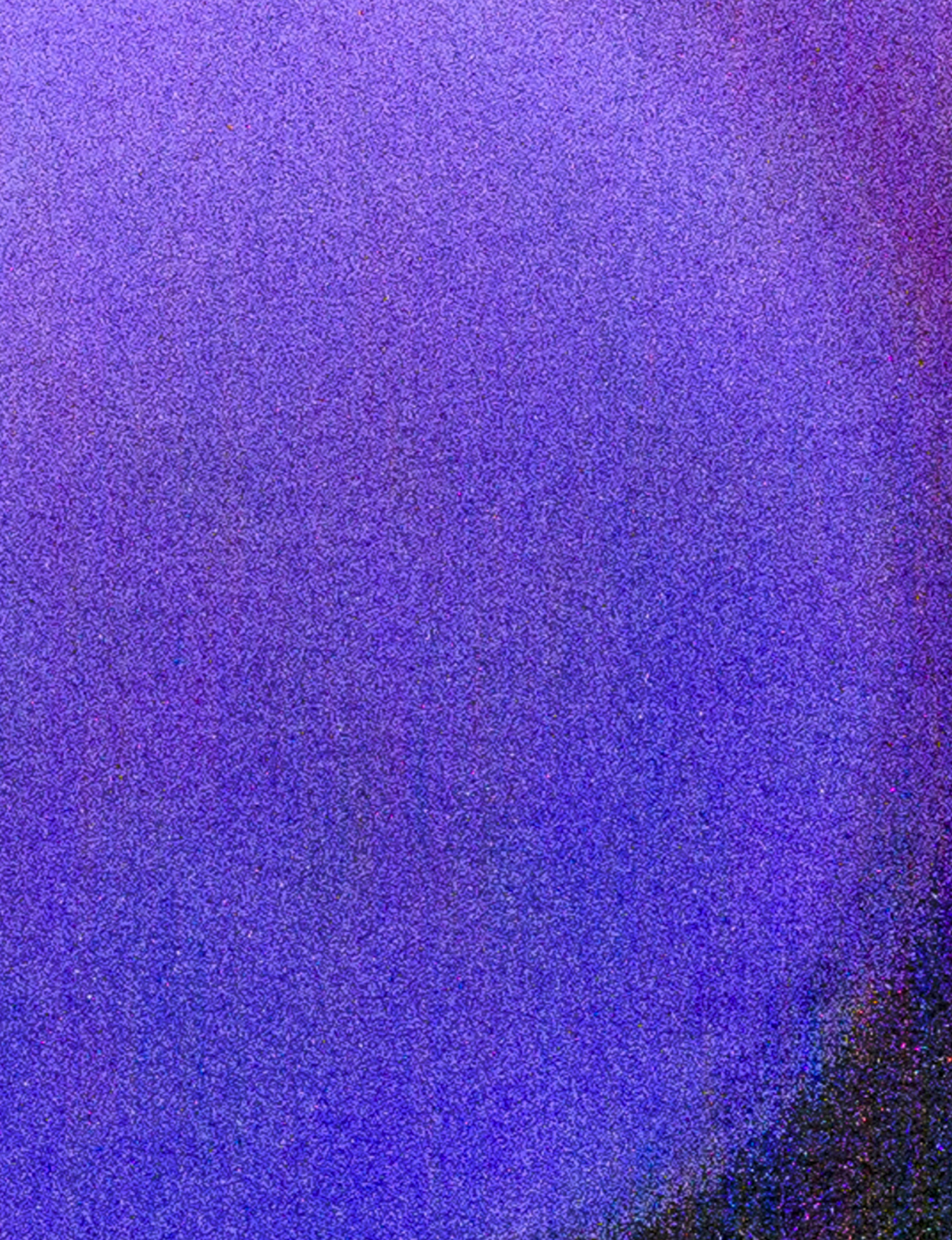




Manuel Moncayo
manuelmoncayo.eu

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Bio

My name is Manuel Moncayo (b. 1989, Guadalajara, Mexico). I work professionally as a photographer, alongside ventures into performance, curation, and writing. I live between Berlin and Potsdam in Germany.

From childhood, I have been drawn to documenting my surroundings, beginning with family road trips and holiday excursions captured on a video camera gifted to me by my parents at age ten.

I have kept a diary since age 17. At first, it was simply a record of my days, but since 2013 I have shared it online as a mix of photographs and texts. This has served as the foundation of my creative practice and my professional career.

Over time, my oeuvre has become a record of my life, alongside my ongoing interest in photographing gay men and my connection to nature and light. Adulthood has brought a quiet, deeper awareness of my surroundings, and an appreciation for vast landscapes. Lately, I have been writing longer texts and experimenting with video, further developing my work as a writer and filmmaker.

CV

Exhibitions

SEX NOW 2025-2026, NRW-Forum, Düsseldorf, DE nrw-forum.de	Do you see me wanting more? 2019, Pop up venue, Berlin, DE manuelmoncayo.eu
Physique Pictorial 2024, Mainardi Memorial Gallery, San Francisco, USA, bobmizer.org	Birds of a feather 2019, aptm, Berlin, DE aptm.berlin
Tales Around Desire 2024, Casa degli Artisti, Milan, IT cap74024.com	Uncensored 2018, Blogfabrik, Berlin, DE iheartberlin.de
New Queer Photography! 2022, f³ freiraum für fotografie Berlin, DE, fhochdrei.org/	b o r n - Solo Show 2017, Pop up venue, Berlin, DE manuelmoncayo.eu
BOYS! BOYS BOYS! 2021, Fahey Klein Gallery, LA, USA faheykleingallery.com	instinct 2016, Village, Berlin, DE instinct.berlin
Apeirophobia - Solo Show 2021, The Little Black Gallery, London UK, thelittleblackgallery.com	Unlocked 2016, Atopos Gallery. Athens, Greece atopos.gr
elledorado e.V. Art Charity 2019/2017/2015, Schwules Museum, Berlin, DE, schwulesmuseum.de	Folsom - Solo Show 2014, Folsom Europe, Berlin, DE folsomeurope.berlin
BOYS! BOYS BOYS! - Auction 2019, Smit & Son at Paris Photo, Paris, France, smithandson.com	It's Personal - Solo Show 2014, The Club, Berlin manuelmoncayo.eu

Curation & Production

Paralleler Garten 2023, Brandenburg schlossgarten-petzow.de	Volume 2017, Berlin kaltblut-magazine.com	instinct 2016, Berlin instinct.berlin
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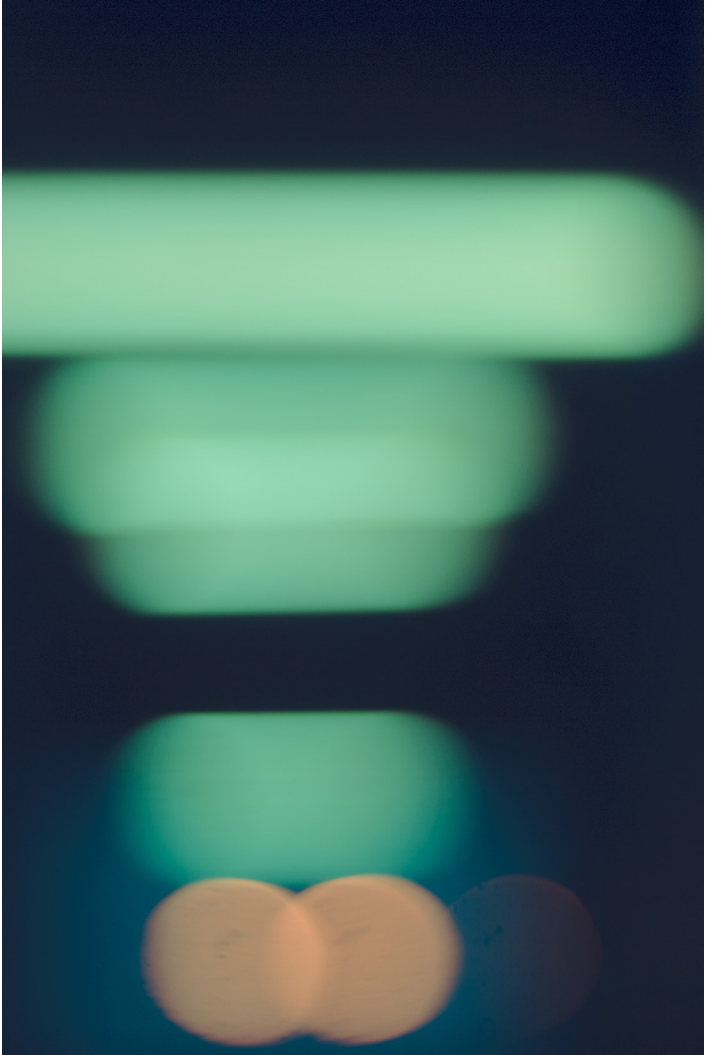
▼ Projects

Public Photo & Written Diary

2013 - Ongoing

Since 2013, Manuel Moncayo's online diary has served as the foundation of his creative practice. What began as a daily habit of documenting through photographs and writing has become both a personal archive and an experimental space, shaping his approach to photography and informing his broader artistic work. The diary continues to act as a bridge between private reflection and the public sharing of his work.

manuelmoncayo.eu/diary



04.02.2017
Surrounded by talented people that amplify beauty and life.
Books with friends, bed with love. Happy birthday mum.





11.12.2013
I think we deserve to be amazing.

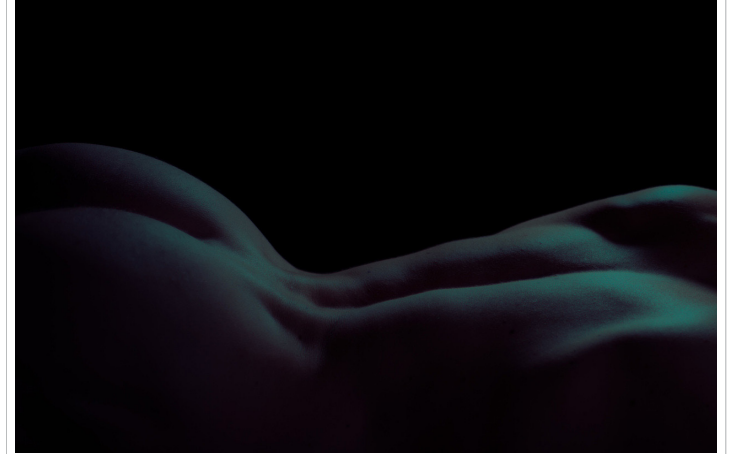
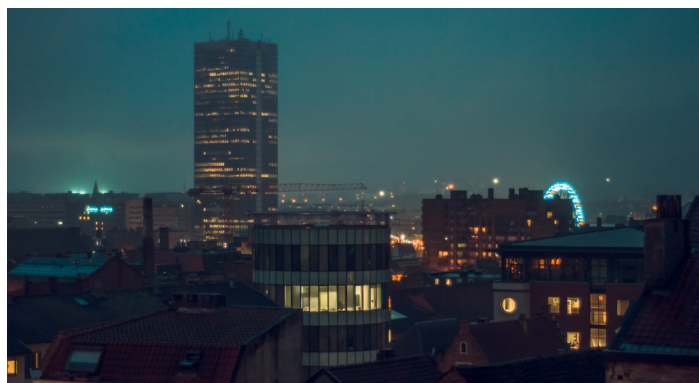


It's in the syllables
2023

Gowing, ever, cause you said you are happier than you used to be with the the shape of your muslce and the way that people look at you now. Unlike the surface, the sofness of your being discovered in the aftermath. Nearly a missed chance to meet you. as ephemeral as a silly coincidence. Tonight I am



26.01.2016
I am away from home, yet I feel closer to it than ever.



17.03.2018



Horizon
2023

I got my morning glory,
and it was golden, and it was light,
a reward for the obscure and the hardness,
a window in bright pastel colors, atmosphere.

How do you disguise your principals as nonchalance?
the sun hides, the empty stomach, and the bank account.





Sommerende I
2025

Dreams as Reality

2013 - Ongoing

By connecting gay men with nature and making their presence an emotional one, this ongoing series proposes a new narrative of the homosexual experience. Within the limited portrayals in the history of art, the portraits assert openness and presence. In contrast to twentieth-century representations, which often framed homosexuality as countercultural or oversexualized, this approach is naturalist, affirming “we are part of nature.”



Realism II
2021

> Rituals XX
2024





The Baltic
2017

23.03.2023

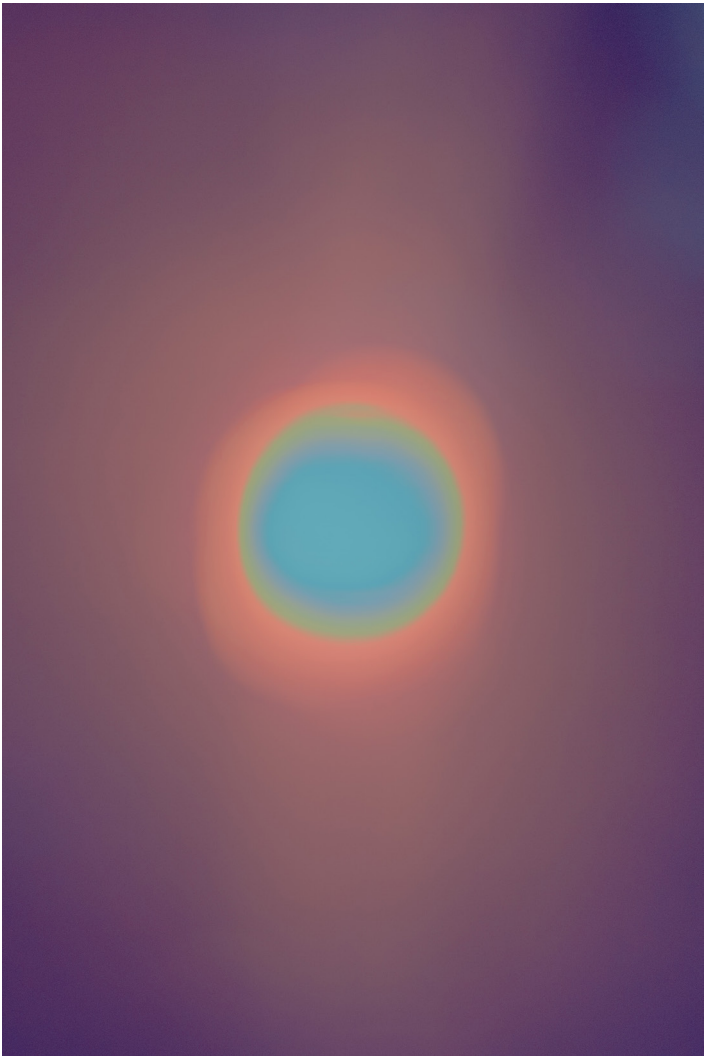
Rarities

2023

Rarities is a photographic series focused on water, sky, celestial light, and urban forms, using gradients and noise to merge reality and abstraction. The series emphasizes stillness, recording subtle shifts in light, reflection, and natural forms over time.

Ventana1
2023

> 19.10.2017

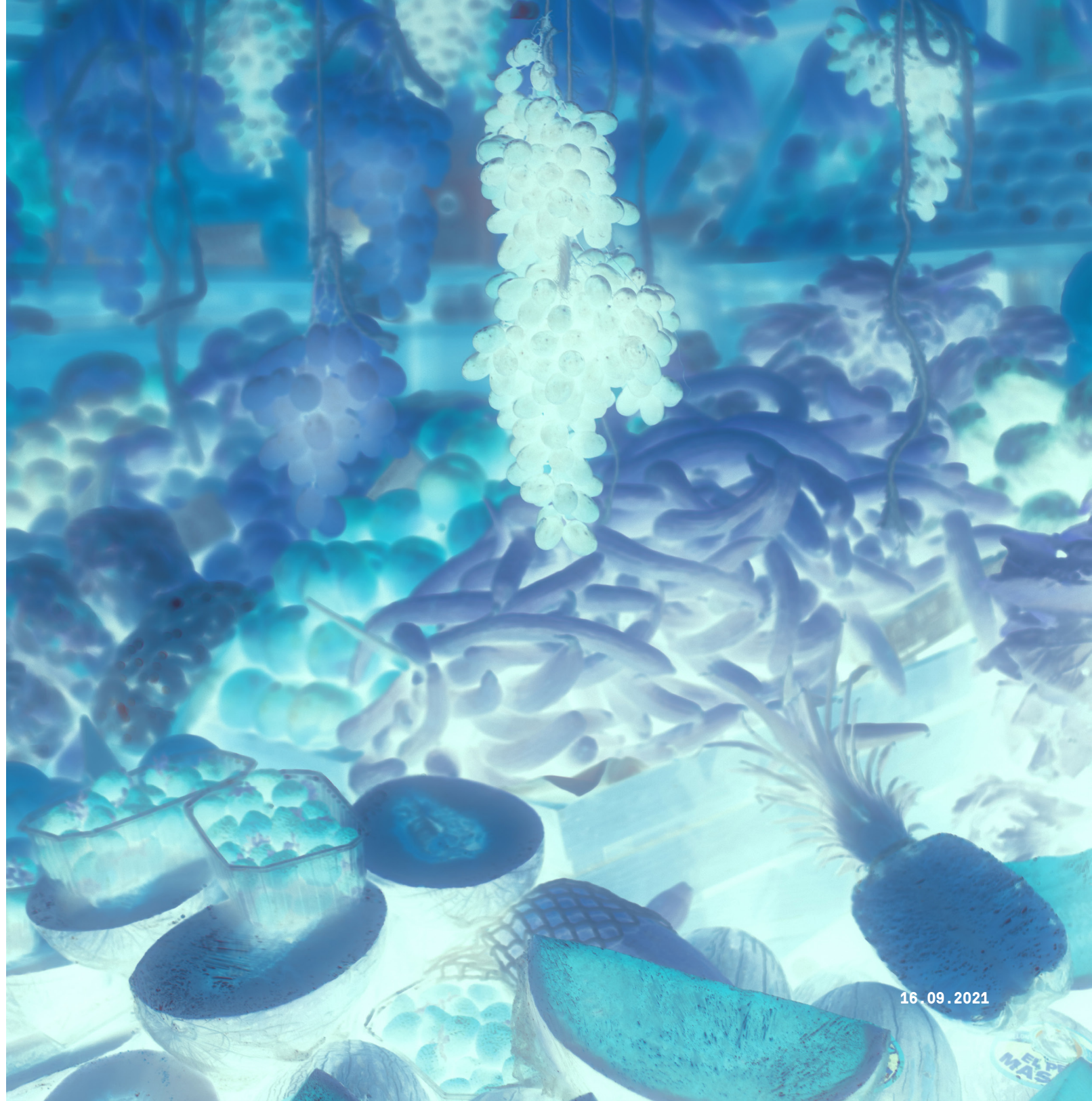


Plant Magic

2021

Plant Magic was created over two weeks in September 2021 during the Plant Magic Art Residency in San Vicente del Raspeig, Spain.

During the residency, Moncayo followed a microdosing practice with psychedelics while living alongside ten artists in a shared space. The project resulted in a photographic series, a video animation (continuous loop), and a written diary.



16.09.2021



21.09.2021

II

> 19.09.2021





Foreign Atmospheres

2021

Foreign Atmospheres is a photographic series captured between 2016 and 2019, a period marked by constant travel and the absence of a fixed home.

The series records still lifes within regional environments, capturing elements that reflect the identity of each place, including street signs, building details, objects, and scenes specific to a city or civilization.

Kamakura
2019



Bangkok
2018

> **Bucharest**
2019



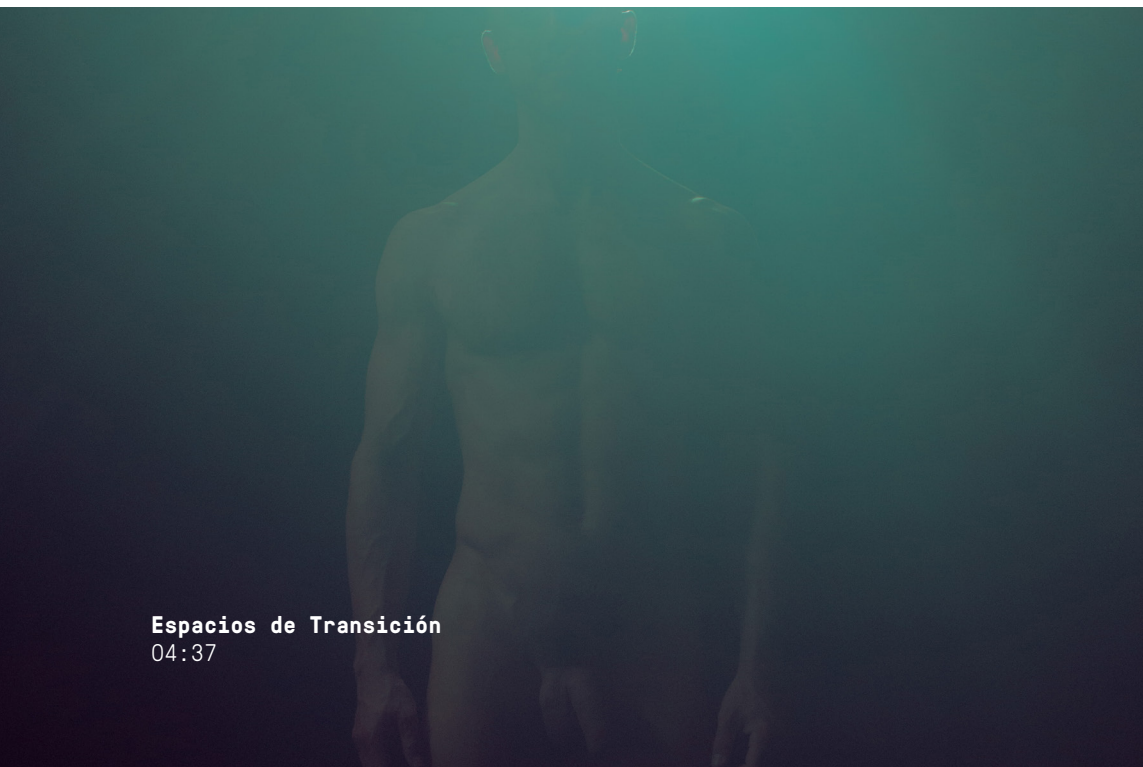


Espacios de Transición II
2019

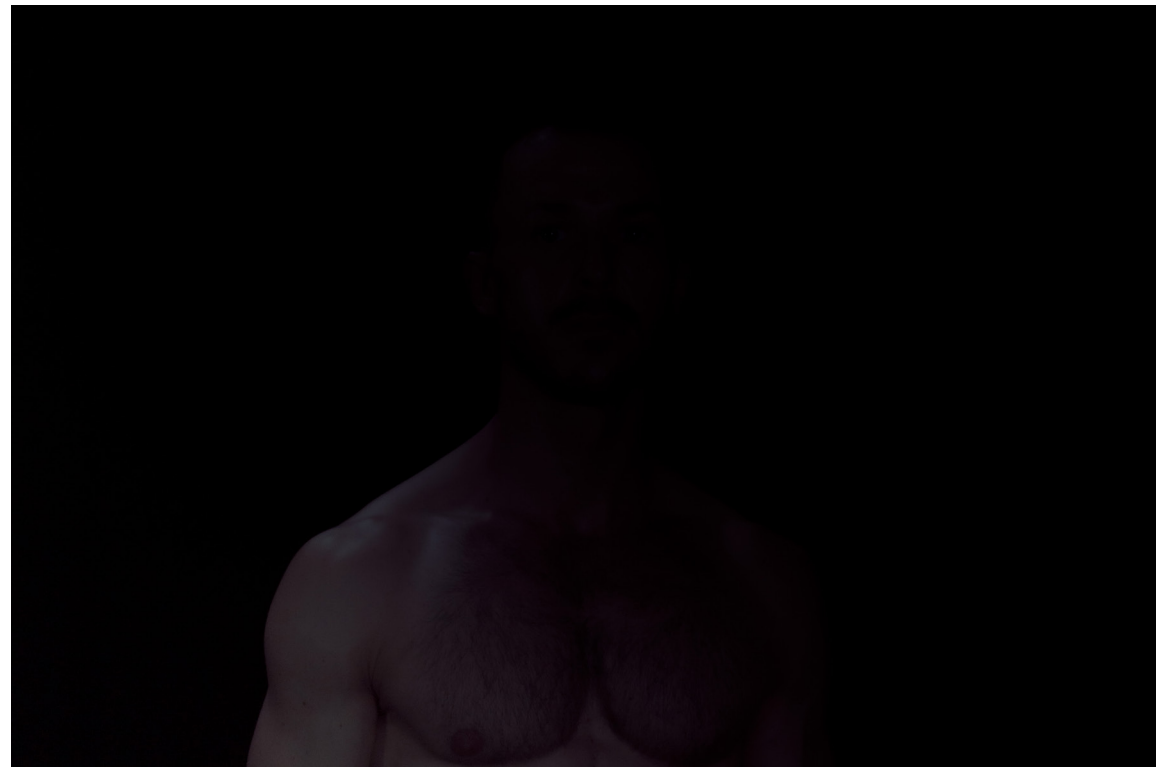
Espacios de Transición
2019

Espacios de Transición was presented in the group exhibition *Do You See Me Wanting More?*, curated by Manuel Moncayo, Spyros Rennt, and the collective RedRubberRoad. The exhibition took place within an abandoned mosque scheduled for conversion into a luxury apartment complex.

The series examines transitional architectural spaces as an analogy for the LGBTQ+ experience and includes seventeen photographs and a video (04:37 min) presented across two screens. The contrast between sharp and blurred imagery reflects the ambiguity of navigating these spaces.



Espacios de Transición
04:37



Anima Ardens

2016

As part of the process, photographer Manuel Moncayo collaborated with choreographer Thierry Smits, capturing still images to analyze the rhythm of the performance and to serve as guidelines for dramaturgy and archival documentation.

Anima Ardens is a contemporary performance that explores the intensity of altered states and their impact on the body. With no set or props, the focus remains entirely on the performers and their responses to shared stimuli.

The photographs have been exhibited at the Schwules Museum Berlin and were included in the benefit auction for the Elton John AIDS Foundation, organized by The Little Black Gallery London as part of the Paris Photo fair in 2019.



Anima Ardens II
2017



Anima Ardens I
2017

▼ Publications

rituals

2024

Born from the need to create tangible art, *rituals* takes the form of a limited-edition box containing 22 fine art prints. The box was advertised only with its title and photographs of the exterior, allowing the contents to remain a secret for the collector to discover.

Photographed in rural Europe and in places of worship in Mexico, *rituals* explores the concealment of messages, with the artist engaging in meditation during the act of photographing.

Size: 24 x 17.3 x 4 cm



b o r n

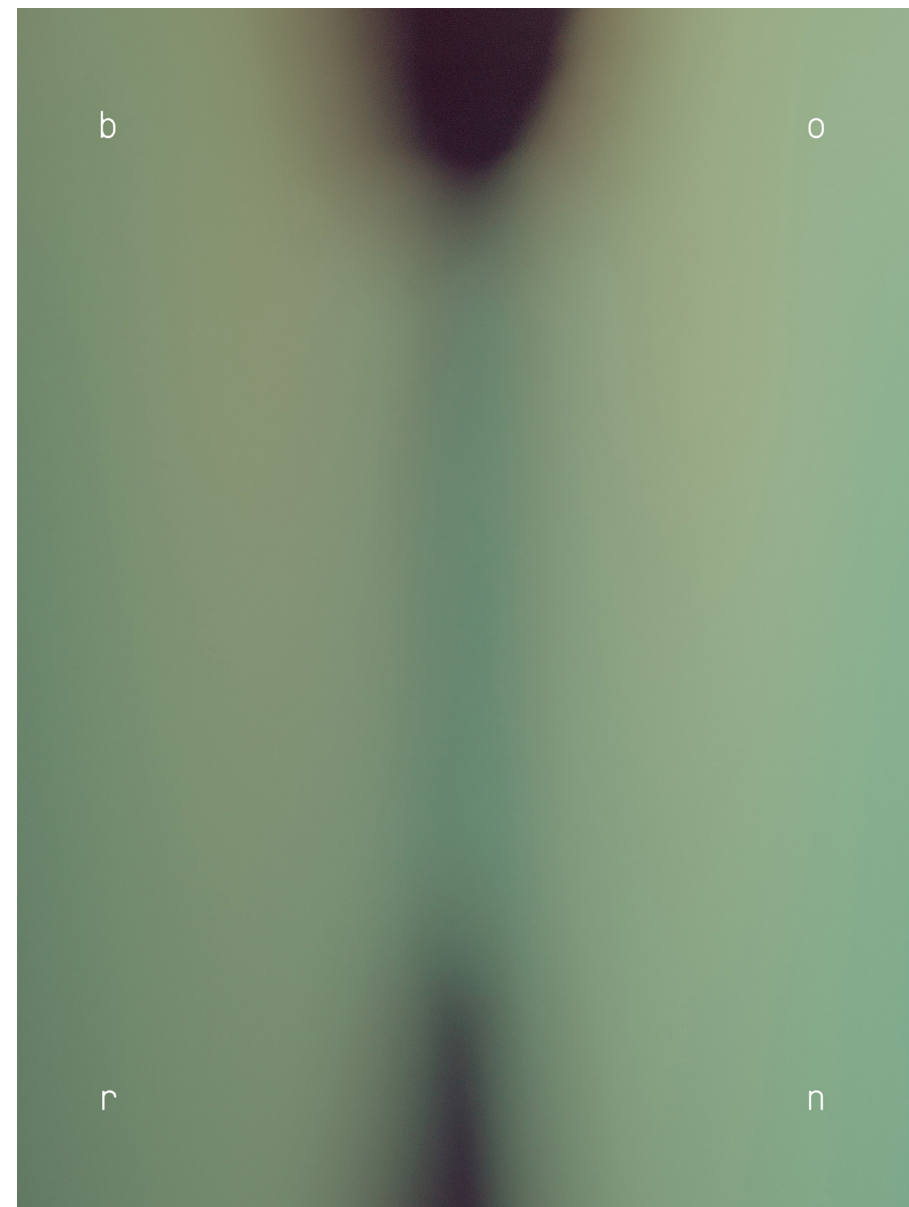
2017

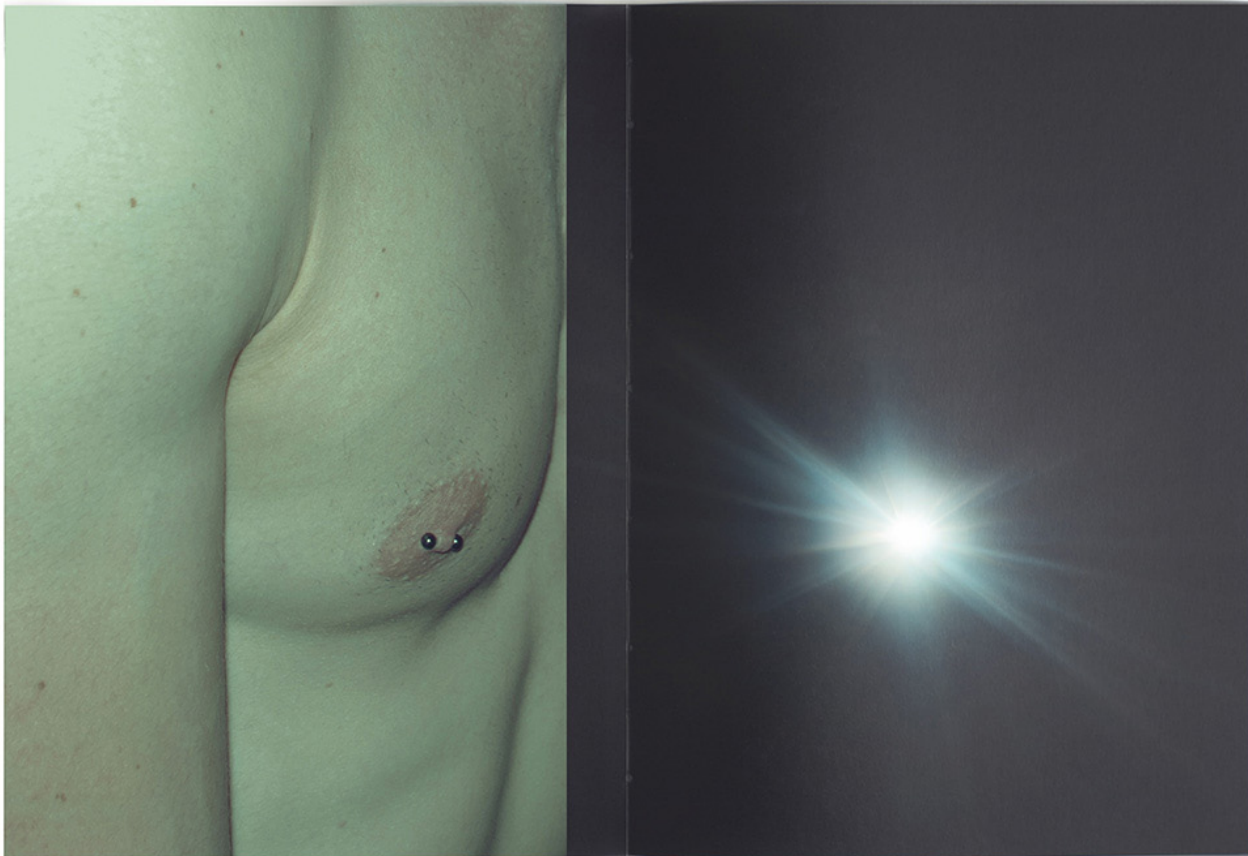
Based on the first three years of Manuel Moncayo's online photo and written diary, this 160-page publication, limited to 500 copies, presents a curated selection of photographs merged on top of one another alongside a chronological selection of diary entries.

Size: 21.5 x 16.5 x 1.5 cm

ISBN: 978-3-00-056165-8

First Edition: April 2017, Berlin





"Manuel Moncayo can see patterns and links in nature, the body and architecture that may elude the eye. Gathered together they create a synesthesia that plays a symphony that can be heard with the eye and the heart. Gradations of color tell emotional stories that persist long after the book is back on the shelf."

Christopher Harrity
- The Advocate -

Guys, Light and Nature

2015

Manuel Moncayo's first published photo book, *Guys, Light, and Nature*, was released by Editorial Portfolio 1000, a publishing initiative by Bruno Gmünder. The project provided a platform for emerging artists, offering visibility in the early stages of their careers.

Moncayo's work reflects an instinctive approach to photography that seeks to redefine the portrayal of gay men beyond conventional narratives by situating them within the natural world.

The foreword was written by art director Naikee Simoneu, marking the beginning of a long-term creative collaboration between the two.

Size: 24.77 x 33.02 cm

ISBN: 978-3959850087

First Edition: December 2015, Berlin





"His photographs conjure up the mysterious realm of dreams and private reveries, made doubly alluring by his beautiful depictions of the male physique. We love championing his continued evolution as an artist and visionary."

Frederick Woodruff
- Physique Pictorial -

**BOYS
BOYS
BOYS**
presents a contemporary
collection of queer and gay
photography, full of variety,
power, and intensity

Photographs by

AdeY / Alex Avgud / Domenico Cennamo
/ David Charles Collins / Lulu Delafalaise
/ Ivan Donadio / Diogo Duarte / Thibault
Gaëtan Dubroca / Nicholas Efimtcev /
Andreas Fux / Stephane Gizard / Greg
Gorman / Phil Griffin / Alexandre Haefeli
/ Jerome Haffner / Babak Haghi / Tim
Hailand / Brice Hardelin / Florian Hetz /
Serge Le Hidalgo / Dmitry Komissarenko
/ Richard Kranzin / Zak Krevitt / Iakovos /
Matt Lambert / Paul McDonald / Manuel
Moncayo / Lucas Murnaghan / Ferry
van der Nat / Aurélien Nobécourt-Arras /
Michael James O'Brien / Sebastian Perinotti
/ Laurence Philomene / Roy Rietstap /
Brandon Rizzuto / Mauricio A. Rodriguez
/ Xavier Samre / Stuart Sandford / Ruben
van Schalm / Sam Scott Schiavo / Luke
Smithers / Michael Søndergaard / Birk
Thomassen / Tyler Udall / Luis Venegas
/ Mariano Vivanco / Gerardo Vizmanos /
Shen Wei / Sarp Kerem Yavuz / Vlad Zorin

Edited by Ghislain Pascal
All royalties to the Elton John AIDS Foundation

**B O Y S
B O Y S
B O Y S**

teNeues | MENDO

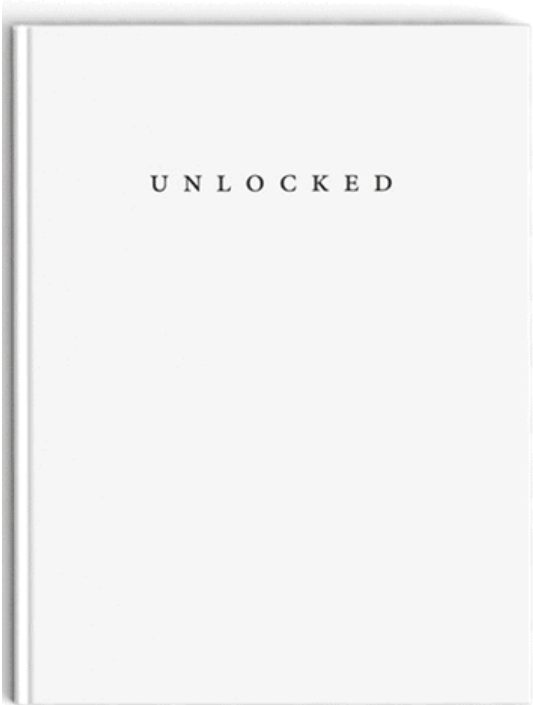


BOYS! BOYS! BOYS!
teNeues, 2021

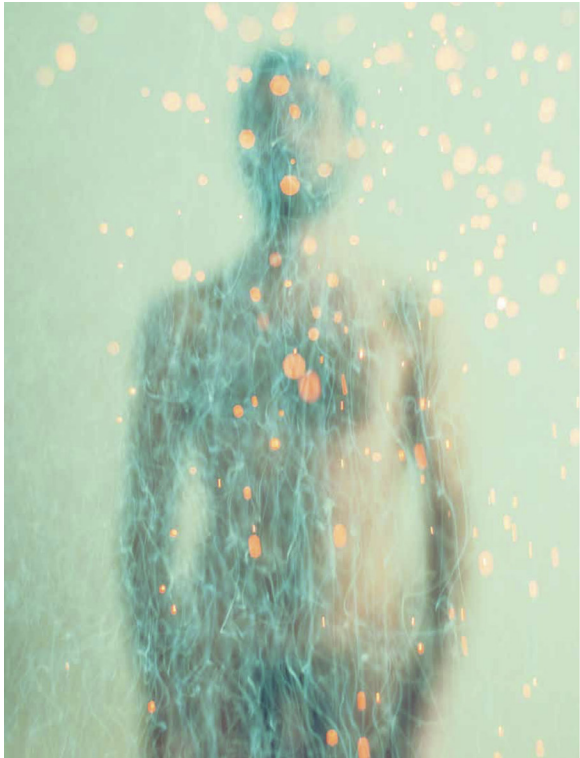


"Manuel Moncayo conjures dreamy worlds filled with solemn silences in a private dance or ritual. Moncayo's practice is sensual but not sexualized, his images have a quiet depth."

Ben Miller
- New Queer Photography -

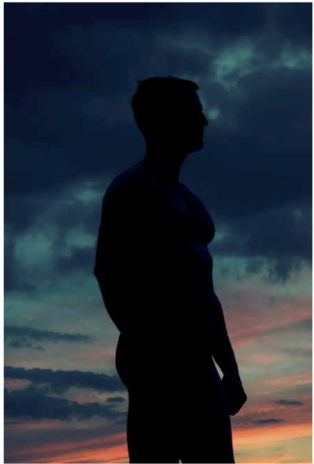


Unlocked
Atopos, 2015



202.
—Manuel Moncayo
Nicolas
(2014)

201. { LEFT PAGE
—Manuel Moncayo
It's Personal
(2014)



203.
—Manuel Moncayo
G
(2014)



204.
—Manuel Moncayo
Dimitri in Colors
(2014)

▼ Curation

Paralleler Garten

Brandenburg, 2023

Co-curated by Manuel Moncayo and Maria Isas, *Paralleler Garten* took place in the Schlossgarten Petzow in Brandenburg, a nineteenth-century walled garden.

Visual and audio works, along with sculptural and taxidermy pieces were installed across the ferry lawn, the stumpery, the rose garden, and the medicinal garden, introducing new perspectives onto the landscape.

Featuring artists: Camille Soulat, Cécile Wesolowski, Gaia Vincensini, Hristos Hantzis, Hugo Laporte, Joshua Petherick, Manuel Uhthoff, Marián Roma, Mauricio Orozco, Mikos Meininger, Phillip Langer, and Udo Koloska.

Guided by a surrealist sensibility, the exhibition unfolded over two months as the artworks remained outdoors, gradually shifting in relation to the garden and the changing season.

schlossgarten-petzow.de



Self Portrait

Hugo Laporte, 2020

On display at Schlossgarten Petzow, 2023



Souvenir 4
Joshua Peterick, 2020
On display at Schlossgarten Petzow, 2023



Portrait 01 & 02
Erwin Olaf, 2012
On display at Volume A, Berlin, 2017

Volume A

Berlin, 2017

Volume A, organized by Naikee Simoneau and Manuel Moncayo, brought together a mix of established and emerging international and local artists.

Featuring artists: Erwin Olaf, Bruce LaBruce, Tim Lienhard, Lola Dupré, Attila Richard Lukacs, Paul Waak, Milo Matthieu, Gio Black Peter, Cécile Wesolowski, Francois Cadieere, Mehryl Levisse, Scott Ramsay Kyle, Spencer Chalk Levy, Ritchelly Oliveira, among others.

The exhibition presented visual, audio, sculptural, and performance works outside the conventions of formal gallery spaces, including cinema, painting, fashion, drawing, embroidery, digital animation, and collage. By placing these diverse artistic voices in dialogue, *Volume A* offered a platform where independent and established practices converged, fostering experimentation, collaboration, and direct engagement between artists and audiences.

kaltblut-mgazine.com

instinct

Berlin, 2016

instinct, conceived, curated, and produced by Manuel Moncayo, is the first edition of an ongoing art festival in Berlin. The festival brought together photography, art objects, books, performances, and film screenings.

Featuring artists: Antonio da Silva, Joseph Wolfgang Ohlert, Manuel Moncayo himself, Jean-Baptiste Huong, Felix d'Eon, Neil Gilks, Matteo Greco, Florian Hetz and Christos Kapralos.

instinct.berlin



Spunk

Antonio da Silva, 2015

Screening at instinct, Berlin, 2023

Texts

Nikola Čemanová
 Christopher Harrity
 Ben Miller
 Naikée Simoneau
 Frederick Woodruff

Creative Consultation

Kotryna Slapsinskaite

Contact

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I photograph to make sense of time, to capture fleeting silences, the glow of skin against the vastness of nature, the way light moves like memory. My work is a search for quiet images, for moments that exist beyond the noise of the world.

I was born by the Pacific Ocean, where the horizon is endless and solitude feels like home. My images are about presence. Beauty is not in perfection but in impermanence, in the way the light touches the skin before it disappears.

*Photography for me is **dreamlike**, undefined, dissolving at the edges.*

I follow the light.

