

SANNA KANNISTO – SENSE OF WONDER



Sanna Kannisto's (b. 1974) studio photographs offer the viewer encounters with animals that have momentarily been separated from nature and made part of research and culture. "*I am drawn to the animal's interpretation-defying gaze, and to encounters with this gaze. In that gaze lies the special essence of being an animal, its allure.*" The *Sense of Wonder* exhibition is an extensive cross-section of the photographer's career. For more than 20 years, she has worked at research stations in South American rainforests and, more recently, at the Hanko observatory photographing migratory birds of the north.

Kannisto's work is based on her keen interest in the diversity of nature, her strong desire to observe nature, and her combinations of multi-sensory data. As a researcher-artist, Kannisto is building her own collection. Her work is guided by close collaboration with scientists. Concern over the loss of biodiversity plays an important part. In her work, Kannisto explores her role at the research stations working alongside the scientists, the ways in which information can be produced and interpreted, and the tradition of which she herself is a part.

The *Sense of Wonder* exhibition is the first to showcase Kannisto's journals, which detail the artist's work in the challenging and rapidly changing conditions of the rainforest. At the same time, they depict the difficulty of approaching and perceiving the subject, and the feeling of wonder the artist experiences in her day-to-day encounters with nature.