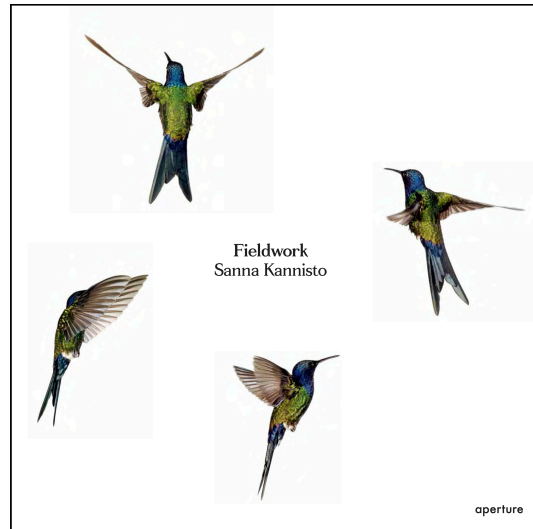




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## APERTURE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES



### ***FIELDWORK*** **PHOTOGRAPHS BY SANNA KANNISTO**

**Exhibition on View at Aperture Gallery  
April 21, 2011–June 23, 2011**

**Opening Reception with the Artist: Thursday, April 21, 6–8 pm**

**Artist Talk and Book Signing: Monday, April 25, 6:30 pm**

Aperture Foundation is pleased to announce the exhibition and accompanying publication of *Fieldwork*, photographs by Finnish rising star **Sanna Kannisto**. *Fieldwork* explores the dialectics of nature and culture in both artistic and scientific contexts. Since 1997, Finnish rising star Sanna Kannisto has spent several months per year living alongside biologists in the rainforests of Peru, Brazil, French Guyana, and Costa Rica. Adopting elements of her companions' scientific methods and concepts, she developed her own form of visual research, extending her depictions of the flora and fauna beyond the confines of the natural sciences. Rather, *Fieldwork* explores the dialectics of nature and culture in both artistic and scientific contexts, challenging the limits of knowledge and truth.

The core practice of the natural sciences is to collect in order to inspect more closely in the service of public knowledge. Collecting implies taming and containment, traits shared to some extent by photography. Breaking away from the conventions of scientific documentation, which

typically presents specimens in isolation and devoid of context, Kannisto's work addresses the

acts of staging and image-making. Her photographs, with their biologically correct titles, show not only the breathtaking beauty of nature, but also the tools used to achieve the would-be image at center—the velvety black drapes at each side, the difficult “neutral” lighting rig, the seamless white background. Signs of a scientifically standardized process—graph paper, rulers, test field markings—are also included, appearing uncharacteristically absurd, strangely out of place amid the lush green foliage of the rainforest.

With her gentle humor, Kannisto both recognizes and utilizes the constraints of science and photography alike, investigating the concept of truth in photography to challenge how we view and “know” the natural world.

Kannisto's work references old botanical encyclopedias, early natural history illustrations, traditional still life paintings, as well as anthropology, studio portraiture, and staged photography. Steve Baker contributes an excellent essay that addresses the representation and use of animals in contemporary art.

*Fieldwork* was made possible, in part, with generous support from the Finnish National Council for Photographic Art. Additional support for the exhibition was provided by FRAME (Finnish Fund for Art Exchange) and the Consulate General of Finland.

**SANNA KANNISTO** (born in Hämeenlinna, Finland, 1974) studied photography at the University of Art and Design in Helsinki. Her work has been exhibited at venues in more than twenty-five countries around the world, including Centre Pompidou, Paris; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland; and the Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki. She lives in Helsinki.

**STEVE BAKER** (essay) is emeritus professor of art history at the University of Central Lancashire, UK, and has written widely on the representation and use of animals in contemporary art. He is the author of *The Postmodern Animal* and *Picturing the Beast: Animals, Identity, and Representation*.

11 x 11 in. (27.9 x 27.9 cm)

160 pages plus 4 gatefolds; 100 four-color images

Hardcover with jacket; ISBN 978-1-59711-152-2

\$50.00; £32.50

**Aperture**—located in New York's Chelsea art district—is a world-renowned non-profit

publisher and exhibition space dedicated to promoting photography in all its forms. Aperture was founded in 1952 by photographers Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Barbara Morgan, and Minor White; historian Beaumont Newhall; and writer/curator Nancy Newhall, among others. These visionaries created a new quarterly periodical, *Aperture* magazine, to foster both the development and the appreciation of the photographic medium and its practitioners. In the 1960s, Aperture expanded to include the publication of books (over five hundred to date) that comprise one of the most comprehensive and innovative libraries in the history of photography and art. Aperture's programs now include artist lectures and panel discussions, limited-edition photographs, and traveling exhibitions that show at major museums and arts institutions in the U.S. and internationally.

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