



NEW RELEASE

Cristina Dias de Magalhães Instincts. Same but different

Texts by Dominique Baqué, Christian Gattinoni,
Françoise Poos
Designed by Kehrер Design (Loreen Lampe)
Hardcover, Swiss binding
16,5 x 22,6 cm
96 pages
53 color illustrations
English, French
ISBN 978-3-96900-063-2
Euro 38,00

Experiences of early childhood, captured through the eyes of the artist's twin daughters

»Victoria's and Helena's birth changed everything. They are now part of my world, my life, myself. We evolve side-by-side united by a unique bond. I started Instincts. Same but different as the silent observer of this nascent dyad's explorations and encounters. I now know that this has been the process to redefine myself as a woman, a mother, and an artist.«

Instincts. Same but different reads like a diary in which Cristina Dias de Magalhães deciphers her family environment visually and emotionally. She rediscovers the moments linked to early childhood, and she establishes a dialogue between human and animal where instincts prevail and guide, endowed with symbolism. Her diptychs reveal a silent bond created through moments shared and felt together, reminding us that we are born into a complex world where instincts are the basis for survival.

From the essay by **Christian Gattinoni**:

The author's text guided me to her favorite place — the Natural History Museum in Geneva, an institution hosting numerous dioramas and the backdrop for these photographs. Initially, they represented exclusively regional Swiss fauna, but since the 1990s, they have expanded to include animals from all continents.(...) The institution's information leaflet tells us that the museum's mascot is a two-headed Greek tortoise named Janus, in reference to the ancient god. This two-headed tortoise, born inside the institution's incubators in 1997, broke a longevity record. The three-year-old twins love visiting the other mounted animals, which are as frequent a subject of maternal photography as the twins themselves.

In all of the diptychs the face-to-face is played out at the level of a child. The image is tightly framed, expressing an intimate and

playful distance. In the dioramas the animal often faces the public or is set according to its best profile. This leads to confrontations such as a bird seeming to pay attention like a big brother to the two little ones, and a hare curiously witnessing effusions of tenderness between mother and daughter echoed by the long ears of a cuddle toy. The photographic conventions of portraiture are applied here to the realm of the animals, meanwhile the camera catches the twins by surprise in closeups of their gestures, figures of an ever-repeating circle, never in the full light of their faces.

*Next to the bodies of the mounted animals and those of the two little girls, a third body of work brings into play the children's drawings. Here again, Cristina is part of an artistic tradition that goes back to the avant-garde creators of *The Blaue Reiter Almanac*, published in Munich in 1912. They were the first to collect and publish children's drawings.*

Cristina Dias de Magalhães (b. 1979 in Luxembourg) is an artist photographer, who explores the human body and being through different ways of observing and perceiving. Over recent years, her photographic work has been exhibited in France, Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Tunisia, and China. She also holds a PHD in Fine Arts from University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Instincts. Same but different was shown at the Imago Lisboa Photo Festival 2020, at the Centre d'Art Nei Licht, and during the European Month of Photography 2021 in Luxembourg.

www.cristina-dias.com

Exhibition

Promenades photographiques, Vendôme, France
02.07. – 27.08. 2022

Please note:

These photographs have been copyright cleared for worldwide print and electronic reproduction in the context of reviews of the books only. Print media: No more than THREE photographs plus the cover image from the selection can be used in total – they are not to be used on the cover or cropped. Online media may use a total of TWELVE images in a gallery.

For further details, press images, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher's press office:

Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com or
pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com

Kehrер Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-18 | Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
www.kehrerverlag.com

Press images



01_HOME
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



02_PLAYGROUND
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



03_GUARDIAN
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



04_
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



05_TENDERNESS
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



06_REASSURANCE
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



07_ADVENTURE
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



08_TWINS
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



09_ESCAPE
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



10_DYADE
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



11_BALANCE
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães



12_AUTHORITY
© Cristina Dias de Magalhães