

NEW RELEASE



Sage Sohier Peaceable Kingdom The Special Bond between Animals and their Humans

Texts by Sy Montgomery, Sage Sohier
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Photographer Sage Sohier captures the unique bond between animals and their humans.

Sage Sohier photographed at refuges for exotic animals, wildlife rescues that rehabilitate and re-release animals to the wild, dog and cat rescues, and farm animal sanctuaries. She focused on showing the bond between people and animals: Many of the people pictured here have dedicated most of their adult lives to saving animals. As for the animals, their sweetness, resilience, zest for life, and willingness to forgive people – to coexist with them and often to flourish – is remarkable, and may be their only salvation (S. Sohier)

From the essay by **Sy Montgomery**:

Looking at these photographs will make you better.

This is not just my opinion as a dedicated animal lover. There is ample scientific proof.

Looking at animals is one of the most basic of human impulses. That's because animals affect our brains like nothing else. In 2011, researchers discovered there's a part of the human brain—a cluster of neurons on the right side of the two, almond-shaped areas known as the amygdalae—which responds specifically, and only, to animals. Not to people, places or objects. Only animals. That's how important animals are to our kind.

(...)

Beatitudo is the word that describes the bliss captured in these photos. Of course, unconditional love—so rare in human-to-human relationships—is what animals offer us in spades. They show us the way. Animals activate our best selves: they feed our desire for companionship and affection. They inspire us to nurture and protect. They remind us that we all thrive on compassion. You will see that on these pages. That is why these photos will not only make us feel better; they can help us to be better.

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When we touch gently, when we press our faces together, when we close our eyes in trust and ecstasy, we are saying, »You are secure. You are loved. We are safe. We are in this together.« These photos show us that the Peaceable Kingdom—the state of harmony among all creatures—dwells within us, and that the face of bliss belongs to us all.

Sage Sohier has been photographing people in their environments for more than 30 years, after receiving her B.A. from Harvard University. She has received fellowships from the No Strings Foundation, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation. She has had six books of her photographs published, and her work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Portland Art Museum, the Davis Museum, Wellesley College, and the Brooklyn Museum, to name a few.

Sy Montgomery is the author of internationally acclaimed books, among them *The Soul of an Octopus*.

Exhibitions

Robert Klein Gallery, Boston
 Fall 2021

Foley Gallery, New York
 Winter 2021 / 2022

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Press images



01_Christa with rescued monkeys, Coral Springs, FL, 2014
© Sage Sohler



02_Rich with rescued pig, The Pig Preserve, Jamestown, TN, 2018
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03_Donald and Brenda with skunks and greyhound, Florida Skunk Rescue, Hudson, FL, 2015 © Sage Sohler



04_Family with rabbits and dogs, Center Sandwich, NH, 2009
© Sage Sohler



05_Janice with alpacas, Attleboro, MA, 2016
© Sage Sohler



06_Nancy on the beach with rescued cockatoos and "Baby Blue," Key West, FL, 2014 © Sage Sohler



07_Judy with Charlie Cheetah, Panther Ridge Conservation Center, Loxahatchee, FL, 2013 © Sage Sohler



08_Nancy with show Yorkies, Loxahatchee, FL, 2013 © Sage Sohler



09_Snake, cat, and squirrel monkey, Boynton Beach, FL, 2014 © Sage Sohler



10_Brandy with bearded dragon and poodle, Carmel Valley, CA, 20114 © Sage Sohler



11_Jaden on trampoline with Chrissy, Animal Tracks, Agua Dulce, CA, 2019 © Sage Sohler



12_Marilyn with Woodrow, a great horned owl, Wildlife Rescue Inc., Albuquerque, NM, 2013 © Sage Sohler