

## Antennae Issue: Vegetal Entanglements

Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture

Deadline: May 1, 2019

Giovanni Aloï, Roehampton University

The plant revolution is in full swing. Seven years have passed since *Antennae* published two issues on the subject of plants in art and culture. Today, academic presses, as well as magazines and newspapers, regularly publish ground-breaking articles and thought-provoking books providing new perspectives on the botanical world. Michael Marder's books have rectified continental philosophy's chronic plant-blindness, while Stefano Mancuso's research on plant neurobiology has laid the foundations of wholly new conceptions of plant intelligence. Page after page of contributions from botanists, artists, and scholars are broadening our understanding of vegetal life and its multifarious abilities to shape our world.

Plants have been an enigmatic and inexhaustible source of representational reinvention throughout the history of art. But they have more often been relegated to the background of our imaginative prowess. They have been allowed to play sidekick roles but very rarely, if ever, plants have been given the opportunity to take center stage.

The recent emergence of the vegetal world in contemporary art is the symptom of a new cultural shift. No longer just interested in their aesthetic beauty, artists now look at plant-agency and intelligence, or focus on new considerations of plants as key players in historical, biological, and ecological contexts. As humanity begins to grapple with the urgency imposed by climate change, reconsidering human/plant relationships can reveal the importance of ecological interconnectedness and lead to a more nuanced consideration of the variety of living organisms and ecosystems with which we share the planet.

Pressuring resilient anthropocentric and perhaps, surprisingly, even zoocentric attitudes, the plant-turn in the humanities proposes an unmissable opportunity to uproot ontological conceptions and with that, to rethink our certainties.

With the collaboration of Michael Marder, pioneer of Critical Plant Studies, this issue of *Antennae* will aim to consider a wealth of perspective including but not limited to:

- Plant Sentience
- Plant Neurobiology
- Plant-thinking
- Plant agency
- Plant movement
- Herbaria
- Herbals

Vegetal timeframes

Darwin and plants

Plants and non-western cultures

Plants and gender normativity

Plants and colonialism

Greenhouses and botanical gardens

Grafting

Selective breeding

Botanical Illustration in contemporary art

Plants and photography

History of Botanical Art

Academic essays = length 5000 words max

Artists' portfolio = 10 images along with 1000 words max statement/commentary Interviews = maximum length 6000 words

Fiction = maximum length 7000 words

Roundtable discussions = 5000 words

Deadlines:

Abstracts: 1st of May 2019 (Please submit a 350 words abstract along with a CV and no more than two images)

Selection process is finalized and feedback sent by: 1st of July 2019

Submissions of final pieces: 1st of February 2020

Please email any questions to: Giovanni Aloï: Editor in Chief of Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture antennaeproject@gmail.com ([www.antennae.org.uk](http://www.antennae.org.uk))

Reference:

CFP: Antennae Issue: Vegetal Entanglements. In: ArtHist.net, Feb 22, 2019 (accessed Jul 13, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/20228>>.