



Alien Cherokee, by W. Michael Murphree
© W. Michael Murphree, 2005



Alien Tentacles, by Rodrigo Pedrolli
© Rodrigo Pedrolli, 2005

Alien Nature

By Jennifer Towry, IPHF

Alien Nature, the intriguing photography of Rodrigo F. Pedrolli and W. Michael Murphree, is on exhibition at IPHF May 6 through July 30, 2006.

Through magnification and digital evolution, *Alien Nature* reveals the intricacies of flora normally hidden from everyday view. The resulting creations allow the viewer to experience nature transformed. Deconstructed and reborn, petals, leaves and spines become entirely new beings – some powerful and stately, others delicate and subtle. *Alien Nature* is an innovative exploration of common subject matter, resulting in resplendent captivating imagery.

Rodrigo Pedrolli was born in Minas Gerais, Brazil. Early in life he developed a passion for art and design. "I have always looked at the world with a lust and fascination for ingenuity." He later used his skills in the advertising field. In 1987 Pedrolli began working as an Art Director for agencies in Belo Horizonte, and later in Sao Paulo. Pedrolli continued art directing, all the time honing his own skills.

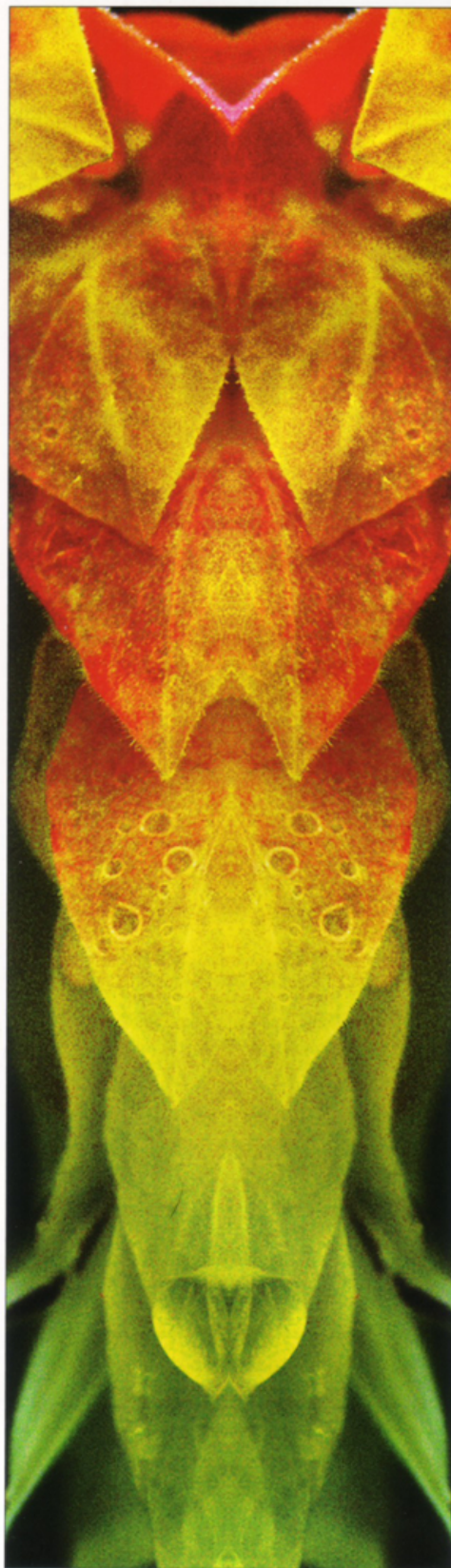
"I take close up pictures of flowers because I want people to see small details most of them have not seen before, or have not paid attention to. It is really incredible to get so close to

a subject that its image becomes almost abstract. I crave the texture and vibrant colors that nature has to offer."

W. Michael Murphree was born in Newcastle, Wyoming and raised in West Point, Mississippi. Murphree also embraced art as a child, with the support and encouragement of teachers and family. At the age of 11 Murphree received his first camera and his "love of picture taking began." His early images were black and white photographs of friends, using the Mississippi landscape as the backdrop.

Murphree earned a BA from Louisiana State University, and moved to New York City in 1979. He continued his photography, this time exploring the inhabitants and structures of his new home. Murphree worked as an Art Director for small agencies and design studios before opening his own design firm in 1986.

Both Pedrolli and Murphree experienced the incredible changes and advancements made possible by the developments of computers and digital technologies. The two creative minds individually embraced the possibilities of this new medium. For Murphree, computers served



as a valuable tool in the creation process. "Computers changed my perspective. They gave me the instant gratification I have always needed and the ability to see the world using light and pixels...but the computer is nothing but an electric recorder waiting to be fed information. I use my camera for that source..." Murphree and Pedrolli would eventually meet, and discover the similarities between their art. Their partnership became RAM Art Photography, producing insightful macro-botanical images. *Alien Nature* is their latest project, an inspired interpretation of nature's creations.

"Our intent is to spark your imagination and place you in our kingdom – to take you on a journey where 'passion' is yellow and 'udders' are purple. A visit that will tantalize your senses and place you in a primitive world as old as the earth, maybe older than time itself. We are trying to indulge you, to treat you with a bit of primitive eye candy. This domain is a mosaic of primal structures inspired by a world where ants bow down to the scent of the 'Alien Queen.' In this realm there is no death, there is only rebirth..." To experience more of *Alien Nature*, visit www.aliennature.com.

An opening reception for *Alien Nature* will be held Saturday, May 6 from 6pm to 8pm. The reception is free and open to the public.

Left: *Alien Shrimp*, by W. Michael Murphree
© W. Michael Murphree, 2005

Right: *Alien Squid*, by Rodrigo Pedrolli
© Rodrigo Pedrolli, 2005

