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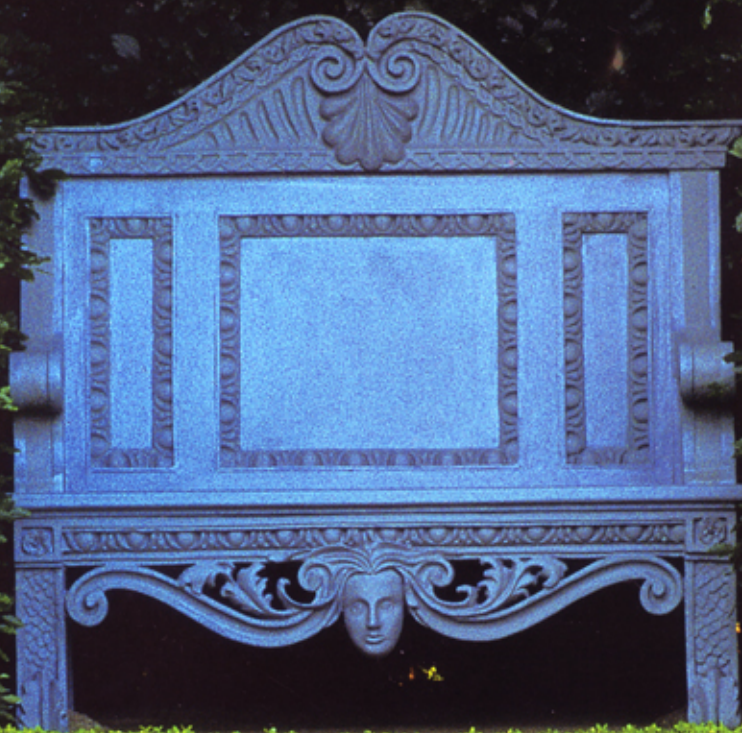
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Part of the collection of surrealistic digital macro photography called Alien Nature, above, left to right: "Alien Chrysalis" (Pedrolli), "Alien Samurai" (Murphree), "Alien Passion" (Pedrolli) and "Alien Aura" (Murphree). For more information and an exhibit schedule (and to view other startling images) see aliennature.com.

art

ALIEN INVASION

SOME IMAGES MAKE YOU WONDER IF YOU'VE BEEN USING YOUR VISION TO ITS fullest capacity. Such is the case with the digital macro photography of artists Rodrigo Pedrolli and Michael Murphree. Called Alien Nature, the images focus on plants in such extreme, surrealistic close-ups that they seem more like visitors from another planet (sometimes scary, sometimes funny) than the familiar plants in our backyards—Georgia O'Keeffe meets Captain Kirk.

Coming from different cultures but pursuing similar courses, Brazilian native Pedrolli and Mississippi-born New Yorker Murphree realized early on how remarkably simpatico their work is and joined forces. The results will cause you to never take even the humblest flower for granted.—JA

