

Editor. "Press Release for 'Strange Plants II,'" zioxla.com, February 2015.



Zioxla is pleased to announce the publication of *Strange Plants II*, the second book in a series that celebrates plants in contemporary art. The book features the work of 30 artists, and explores what these artists think about plants and how they portray them in their work. It includes viscous paintings of drooping flower arrangements; intuitive photographs of lily pads and lithe bodies; mixed-media collages that juxtapose the tranquility of Japanese Ikebana with the chaotic energy of vandalism; and much more.

For the book, editor Zio Baritoux brought together several artists who take a unique approach to incorporating plants into their work: Allison Schulnik, Misha Hollenbach, Francesca DiMattio, Zin Taylor, Katarina Janeckova, *Stills & Strokes* and Ren Hang. Schulnik, for example, used her own garden as a character in one of her short films; *Stills & Strokes* projected colors and geometric shapes onto the leaves of plants in botanical gardens; and DiMattio filled the sculptures in her exhibition with dramatic and unruly flowers.

Each artist's work is accompanied by an insightful article or interview that delves deeper into the relationships between plants and people. Taylor talks about a wild jade plant he clipped at the Eames house in Santa Monica and smuggled back to Brussels, thus transporting the spirit of Charles and Ray to his own home. Hollenbach discusses observing a deciduous tree in his backyard as a way to teach his young daughter about the cycle of life. Janeckova, a Slovakian ex-pat who now lives in South Texas, explains how plants keep her company in her new homeland.

As with the first book, *Strange Plants II* includes newly developed work by a select group of artists who do not typically use plants as subject matter. Friedrich Kunath, Rosson Crow, Troels Carlsen, Eric Yahnker, Nina Chanel Abney, Erin M. Riley, Brian Scott Campbell, HuskMitNavn, Casey Gray and Matt Leines all rendered an unusual plant in their own aesthetic. Yahnker contributed a colored-pencil illustration of a flowering aloe plant in a Steven Spielberg pot, Riley hand-wove a tapestry of a sexy stone plant, and Crow painted dark purple orchids and a wavy boophone in a Grecian urn.

Twelve tattoo artists also contributed new work. But instead of the colorful and surreal flash that appeared in the first book, the flash in the "Stick & Poke" is monochrome and based on a cactus theme. Daniel Albrigo, Tamara Santibañez, David Schiesser, Sarah Carter, Mina Aoki, Uptown Danny, Wink Evans, Slowerblack, Shen Schubert, Spider Sinclair, Jessica Swaffer and Rose Whittaker all contributed gritty and fantastical designs, ranging from a woman in the form of a saguaro cactus to a cactus with metal spikes as its spines.

"The aim of *Strange Plants II* is to continue the compelling conversations about how we perceive and interpret both the bizarre and beautiful sides of art and nature," editor Zio Baritoux says. "Since the release of the first book, a community of like-minded, inquisitive and creative people has grown up around these conversations, and I hope this community will expand with the publication of this book."

*Strange Plants II* was designed by Folch Studio, an award-winning design house in Barcelona. The book is 148 pages in length, and comes with eight adhesives so that readers can select their three favorite images and create their own unique covers.

*Strange Plants II* is available for pre-order now, and begins to ship on March 9. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.