

Desiertos dentro de desiertos

Un proyecto de Pablo Pro



*Finding your place in the world can take a lifetime,
a place where one naturally feels strong.
The desert might be the best of all landscapes
to quench the thirst for answers.....*

Text Lydia Iovane

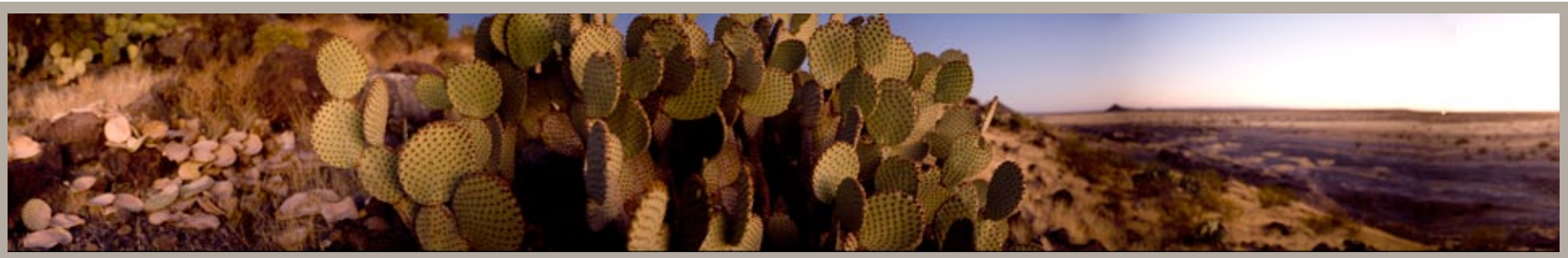
Desiertos dentro de **desiertos**



"Vida y muerte", Pablo Pro 2008

Deserts within Deserts is a voyage connecting the nature of time thru the intuition of the desert landscape. Pablo Pro travels for more than five months between Sonora and Chihuahua, a vast Mexican territory where the photographer lives and photographs his vision of an unordinary reality. A personal territory where time ceases to exist.

His photographs embody – in the form of a logbook - the route of his wandering, from the inside looking out, which culminates in the discovery of a landscape which belongs to the collective unconsciousness, present in these open spaces. Taken from the place where creation emerges and the harmonious link between “he who looks” and his surroundings, Pablo’s photographs reflect the tempos that arise in these places, the temporality of he who observes and captures the breath, the silence and the lingering of each landscape. This personal voyage tries to generate a thought process– not a rationale one but rather one that emerges from emotions and sensations. The photographer has also created an audiovisual work which features his panoramic images taken in the desert together with the sound of breathing, in a meditative state.



"Silencio", Pablo Pro 2008



"Integración", Pablo Pro 2008

Intro

“I arrived in Mexico with the intention of exclusively photographing cactus. I’ve always felt drawn to the personality of these beings - so alive, so near -. During the time I lived in Los Angeles, I had a very special experience with a San Antonio, a species that blooms just one night a year. I was fortunate to be able to watch this rare occurrence five times. One each year. Soon after I left the house, the cactus grew sick. During our coexistence, I ascertained that cactus are the plants that best resemble the human condition: they are alone, like us, they have tremendous inner richness, possess a deep knowledge and need protection. They are true survivors.”

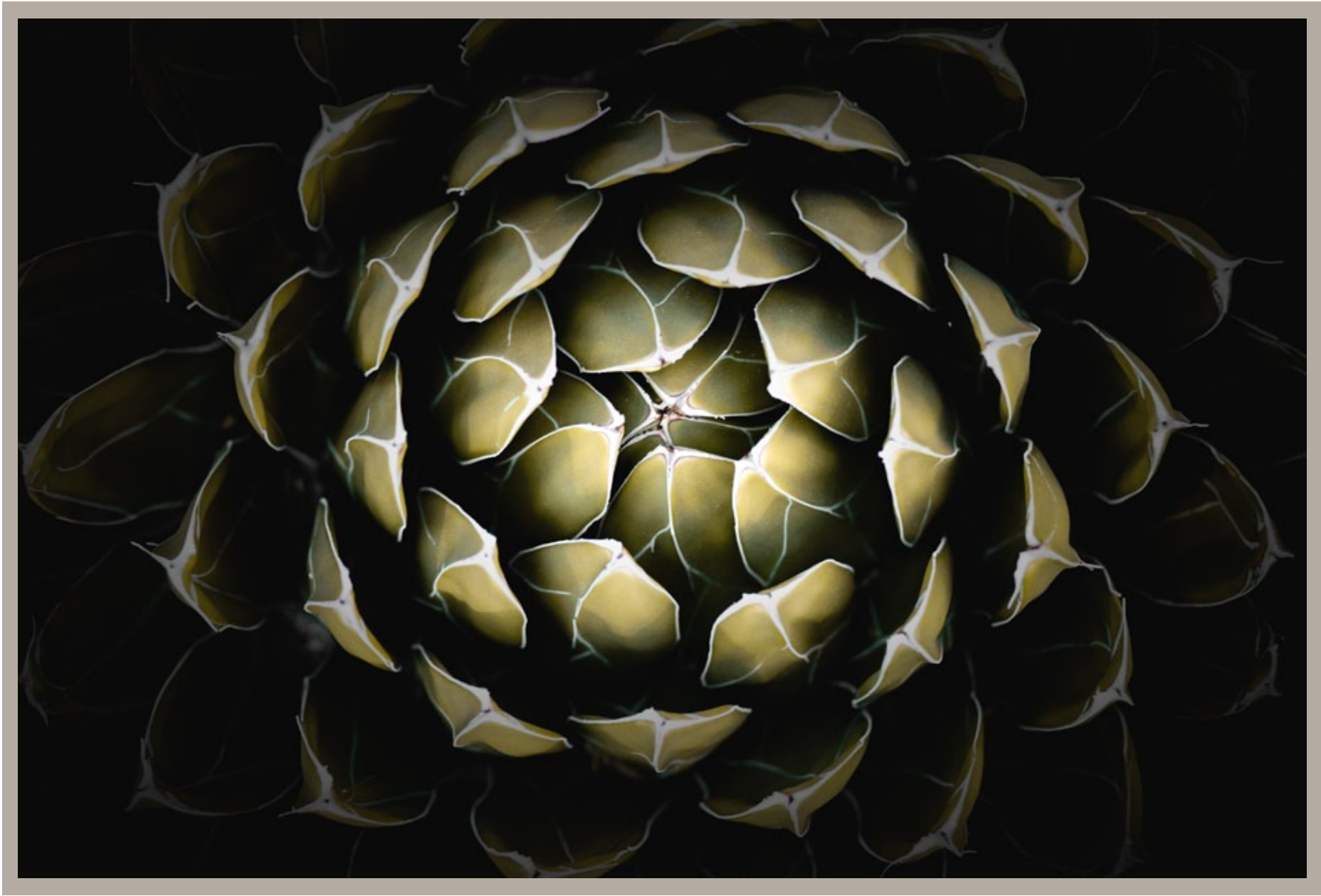
The nature of the disquieting serenity of the deserts, their nearly empty space, apparently inhospitable and arid, full of loud silences, where rootlessness thrives and time lives on in an infinite instant... All this could as well be an exile of loneliness and sterile fear. However, the acceptance of oneself and the harmony with the place leads to a routine process, which is both revealing and integrating. One where freedom resides, where recapitulation is a vital necessity and where one must open up in order to expose oneself. A process where the soul is shaken inside out and where one is emptied. The dislodged energy permeates; it lies in the sea of sand dunes in each of the photographer’s deserts, hoping to nurture the next thirsty traveler.

A landscape scattered with images of innocence, surrender and connection, where beauty lies within, where time is suspended and resonance is translated into natural light. Pablo Pro’s photographs are snapshots of his own inner clock in order to achieve that inherent state of grace, stripped of all references and conditions. The key that paves the way towards pure creative intuition, towards an artistic and personal truth. “My need of exploring perseveres.



"El monje", Pablo Pro 2008

Slowly I manage to cover myself with a sort of diving suit so I can submerge myself in the surroundings and adapt to it. Then I can rid myself of the oxygen tank and find everything in the apparent nothingness. Little by little, the immersion is ever so natural that I find myself in my own environment. I relinquish all patterns, doubts and fears until I am fully aware that this must be my daily routine: in a world of results, the PROCESS is what becomes relevant."



"Apertura", Pablo Pro 2008



"Despertar", Pablo Pro 2008



"Toma de conciencia", Pablo Pro 2008



"C3smica", Pablo Pro 2008



"Percepción", Pablo Pro 2008

Metodología y Desarrollo del trabajo

The photographs are taken with a digital camera and often using a wide-angle lens 16mm–35mm.

The photographer's eye (having integrated himself in a place and expecting nothing) wanders thru the landscapes and stops by pure intuition, freezing those instances (the junctures). Photographic retouching is minimal, in order not to distort reality.

The series of images create a panoramic field of vision, superior to the human eye and thus creates the sensation of being able to see 360 degrees. The photographs are not considered landscape photography but rather are made with the intention of pulling the viewer in to the place where they were taken.

Postproduction Techniques

Printed on paper with methacrylate support and backing.

20 minute video composed by panoramic images where the desert and the cactus come to life. An almost imperceptible expansion and contraction, as if they were breathing. The images flow amongst transparent transitions that allow them to be perceived as if it were just one place that is muting with the passing of time.

The intention is to induce the viewer into a slow and meditative state of mind, which will allow him to appreciate the breathing of the cactus and their condition as a living being.

The idea is to synchronize the viewer with the tempo of the images/breathing so his perception is sensorial. The sound reproduces human breathing, in a deep and meditative state, accompanying the movement of the plants. To offer a real panoramic vision, the video will be viewed using two HD format projectors.



"Soledad" 2x1, Pablo Pro 2008



"Ultimo momento" 2x1, Pablo Pro 2008



"El Muerto" 2x1, Pablo Pro 2008





"Semejante", Pablo Pro 2008

Descripción del proyecto

This project has been conceived to recreate the process of experiencing the desert thru its atmosphere and sensations.

1.- THE DESERT CROSSING. A hallway whose perimeter is “upholstered” with the desert landscape: sand floor and a heat of 40 degree Celsius. Almost instantly, the viewer is transported both in an atmospheric and physical way. The “door” has a photograph printed on it with the intention of extending the sensation of openness into the infinite surroundings.

2.- THE CACTUS. 19 photographs of cactus (5 of 1 x 1m; 9 of 1 x 1.3 m and 5 of 1 x 3m, printed on methacrylate) will be exhibited in a highly lit and totally white enclosure. They will be preceded by a text, which invites one to reflect and share a world of perceptions and discoveries. **TANTITO.** We bring from the desert a little piece. A Cactus would be connected to a stress divisor to measure their changes and show in a graphical way that they suffer stress like us

*The best way to be on land is to step on it.
All the surface will be cover with sand.*

3.- HARA. Projection room with a sand floor (to remember the sensation that the viewer had when he entered) with a 6x5m screen, equipped with an enveloping sound and a large central sitting space with no back support. In the dark, the sound of deep breathing is heard as panoramic images of the desert are projected. The intention is to induce a slow and meditative state of mind in the viewer in order for him to appreciate the breathing of the cactus and their condition as living beings. The idea is to synchronize the viewer with the tempo of the image/breathing so his perception is more sensorial.

4.- DEAD GARDENS. A room in which the sounds of trucks driving by are heard. Nine to eleven photographs (printed on paper, 50 x 70) are shown in which the viewer is transported to a real place where life, death, love and prayer are the vital constants to the theme. A metaphor for existence.



"Vida", Pablo Pro 2008



"Rezo", Pablo Pro 2008



"Vida", Pablo Pro 2008



"Rezo", Pablo Pro 2008

Pablo Pro (Madrid, 1968), director of photography, photographer and camera operator. He graduates from U.C.L.A., Los Angeles with a degree in Cinematography in 1993. For the following 8 years he works in film and lives between Los Angeles and New York. He specializes both in nature as well as social oriented documentaries working on various projects for National Geographic, BBC, Canal Plus France and Discovery Channel. Upon his return to Spain he works as a camera operator for the following productions: "El lapiz del Carpintero" by Antón Reixa, "Canícula" by Alvaro Capello, "Lazos de Sangre" by Pedro Costa and "Al otro lado de la noche" by Patxi Barco. As DOP for advertising, he later works for Coca-Cola, Acuaфина, Nike and Telefonica, among others. He is the recipient of Best Photography Awards for "La China" by Diego Postigo, 2007, "En el hoyo" by David Martin, 2008 and "El Palacio de la luna" by Ione Hernandez, 2009.

His international work continues in film and documentaries with numerous producers such as Tessa Livingstone (Executive Producer, BBC for "Child of our Time"), Christy Hanna ("Earth Story") and Claude Gagnara ("On the Road). Between 2003 and 2007 he teaches Photography courses at the Film School in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. After his enriching experience as a teacher, he decides to return to his roots as photographer with the aim of sharing his experiences and concerns.

"I have the ambitious dream to create portraits of my experiences thru light and the photographic frame. I seek subtleness, the ephemeral, everything that is revealed before the eyes that come across it."



"La muerte", Pablo Pro 2008



"La vida", Pablo Pro 2008



"El amor", Pablo Pro 2008



"El rezo", Pablo Pro 2008

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