

Flowers of Fire **by Anaïs Tondeur and Michael Marder**

Flowers of Fire is a photographic project by Anaïs Tondeur, in collaboration with Michael Marder, developed during an artist residency in Naples and created in dialogue with philosophers, scientists, and inhabitants of the Terra dei Fuochi. The work interweaves photography and ecology, botany and philosophy, bringing together plants, landscapes, and the memories of a territory scarred by pollution and the burning of toxic waste.

Through an experimental protocol of phytography, Tondeur records the traces of plants without removing them from their soil, allowing sunlight to imprint their presence onto paper or textiles recovered from landfills. Each image arises from the direct contact between vegetal matter and the photosensitive surface, producing delicate imprints that evoke resilience, care, and regeneration.

Into this process enters the voice of philosopher Michael Marder, who responds with letters addressed to the plants themselves. The artist brings these words back to the plants, reading them aloud and collecting new imprints: a cycle of interspecies correspondence, a ritual of listening and restitution.

Flowers of Fire is at once an artwork and an ethical gesture: it invites us to regard plants not as mere symbols of rebirth or abstract resilience, but as companions with whom we might cultivate new forms of reciprocal care.

Editor's notes

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Photo selection

