

ZAC LANGDON-POLE'S ART JOURNEY ALONG THE SEAMS OF THE SKY

In his mixed media works the New Zealand artist Zac Langdon-Pole examines the creation of historical tales and myths, as well as the conditions needed for knowledge and its development. His new publication *Constellations* presents the works of art he produced during his BMW Art Journey.

Berlin, January 9, 2020 – For the BMW Art Journey Zac Langdon-Pole (*1988, New Zealand) studied how people have mapped stars over the course of history, and how they used these charts to navigate at sea. Long before the invention of the compass or sextant, Polynesian seafarers were able to use their precise observation of the stars, the flight paths of migrating birds, and the motions of waves to cover great distances across the entire Pacific, and even to make their way to smaller islands.

On his journey, Langdon-Pole followed the flightpaths of the white stork and the Arctic tern along the earth's axis, where the summer seasons of the northern and southern hemispheres meet. Of all living creatures, migrating birds cover the greatest distances. The fact that they have guided streams of people across the Pacific for thousands of years inspired the artist to adopt a perspective that goes beyond the focus on human beings. On his route through central Europe and South Africa, to the Pacific islands of Samoa and Hawaii, he investigated the connections between the development of cultures and scientific celestial charts.

“I've always been fascinated by celestial mapping and astronomy, because they are activities that involve a certain kind of looking that can shift your perspective to a scale that is much greater than your own. I wanted to use the journey to find out how, in the wake of colonization and globalization, relationships to the skies have transformed; and in turn, where that leaves us today,” says Zac Langdon-Pole about the aim of his project.

Besides an interview with the artist, the book also contains a foreword by Thomas Girst and an essay by Marc Spiegler. As a special feature, the cover is printed with a thermal coating that becomes transparent when the surrounding temperature changes.



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ABOUT HATJE CANTZ

Hatje Cantz is a groundbreaking international publishing company specializing in art, architecture, and photography. Since 1945 Hatje Cantz has been using its profound expertise and enthusiasm for craftsmanship to produce and publish books of the highest quality.

Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION HATJE CANTZ as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

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