



UNCOVERED

Hidden Pleasures of the Day

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Artist Statement

Maria Fernanda Cardoso

Naked Flora

In collaboration with Ross Rudesch Harley

The flowers' leaves... serve as bridal beds which the Creator has so gloriously arranged, adorned with such noble bed curtains, and perfumed with so many soft scents that the bridegroom with his bride might there celebrate their nuptials with so much the greater solemnity.

— Carl Linnaeus, *Praeludia Sponsaliorum Plantarum* (1729)

According to Carl Linnaeus – the father of taxonomy, in his text about the wedding of plants, or plants ‘foreplay’, the *Praeludia Sponsaliorum Plantarum* (1729), the petals in a flower are the bridal beds and the calyx is the wedding chamber. By counting how many stamens (or “men in a marriage”) and how many pistils (or “wives”), he invented the Sexual System for the classification of plants, the *Systema Naturae* (1735), still in use today.

“Monoandria: A man in a marriage. Diandria: Two men in the same marriage”, and so on, until “Polyandria: Twenty men or more in the same bridal chamber with one and the same woman.”

For this exhibition I have ‘undressed’ a variety of flowers, counted how many “wives and husbands” each have, and then proceeded to photograph them ‘naked’. This series is the newest addition to the collection of the Museum of Copulatory Organs (MoCO), presented at the Biennale of Sydney 2012.

*Novios y novias se van a casar
en una flor de Hibiscus roja,
2014, digital print, 60 x 40cm*