SANNA KANNISTO

Persons
Projects

Sanna Kannisto's works explore the intersection between nature, science, and art. Her photographs are a study of different methods, approaches, and theories in how humankind interacts with its natural environment. Throughout her numerous travels, Kannisto moves between her subjects like a visual researcher. She borrows and applies different methods from natural science, which she then juxtaposes with traditions used in creating still life paintings. Historically, explorers could be artists as well, and Kannisto enjoys playing both roles. Her affinity for aesthetics meets her scientific curiosity, creating a balanced partnership that enables her to form a photographic world with her own characters. Kannisto utilizes her extraordinary sense for separating her protagonists of choice from their natural habitat by staging them in front of a white or black background in the same fashion as a classical painter would in his staged studies.

Throughout her entire career, Kannisto has pioneered this very personalized method of approaching her subjects by controlling the parameters of how she photographs them. Calculating the unsuspected, through preparation and foresight, lends Kannisto the ability to capture the magic of the unpredictable and the poetry that resides within. Intimate interactions and reciprocal discoveries unfold between the artist and her figures. She studies their behavior and appearance, as they study her. Kannisto states: "Being with a bird is utterly unique, it's moving. I look at the bird and it looks at me. For a moment we have some kind of shared thought. It's kind of a mutual examination."

Sanna Kannisto at work in her moving studio.

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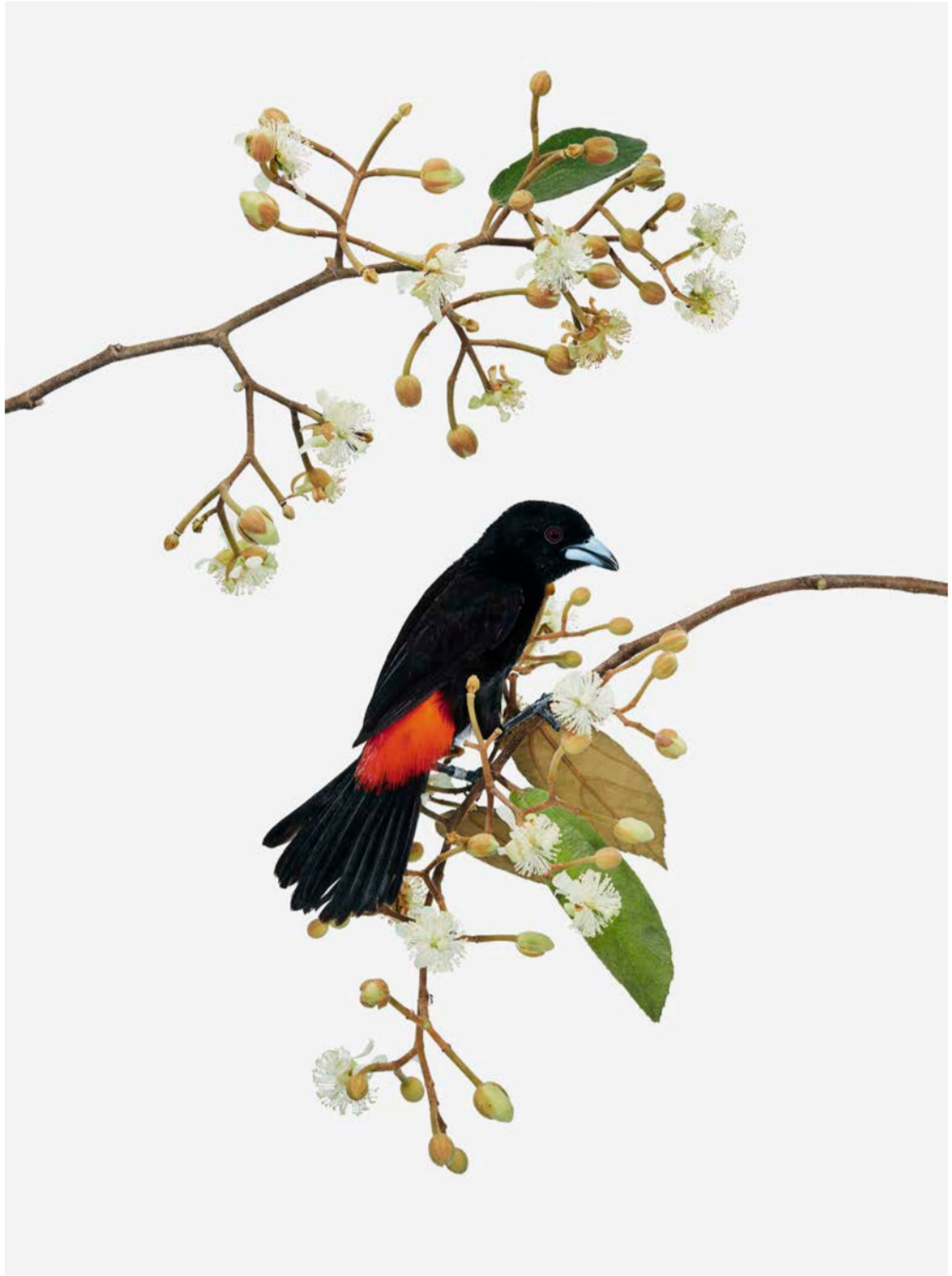
Sanna Kannisto: The Von Wright Brothers exhibition, 2017, Ateneum Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland

Chestnut Flower, 2025, archival pigment ink print, 81 x 61 cm

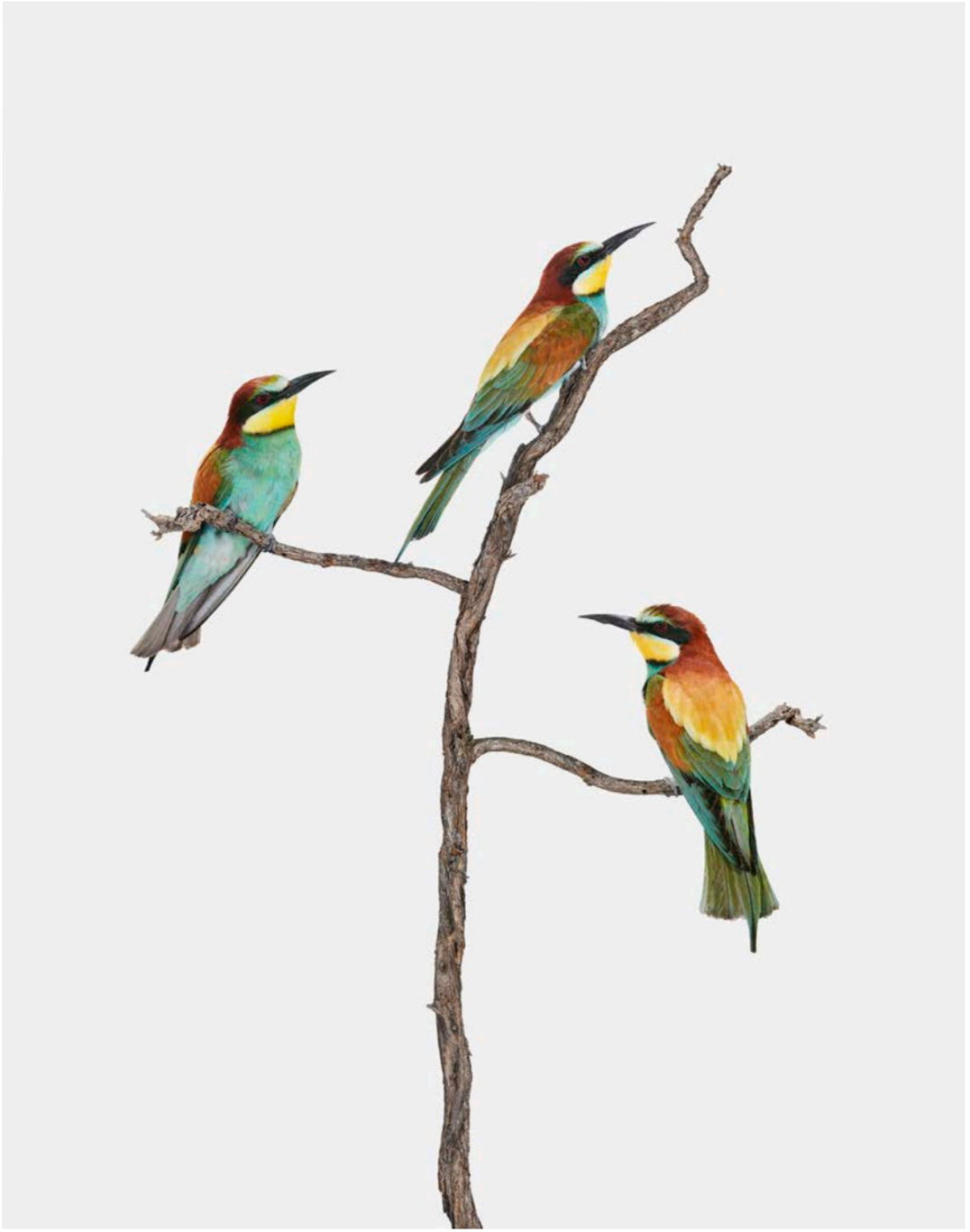


Ramphocelus costaricensis, 2019, pigment ink print, 160 x 120 cm

Merops apiaster, 2024, pigment ink print, 81 x 61 cm

Gestures, 2025, Helsinki Contemporary, Helsinki

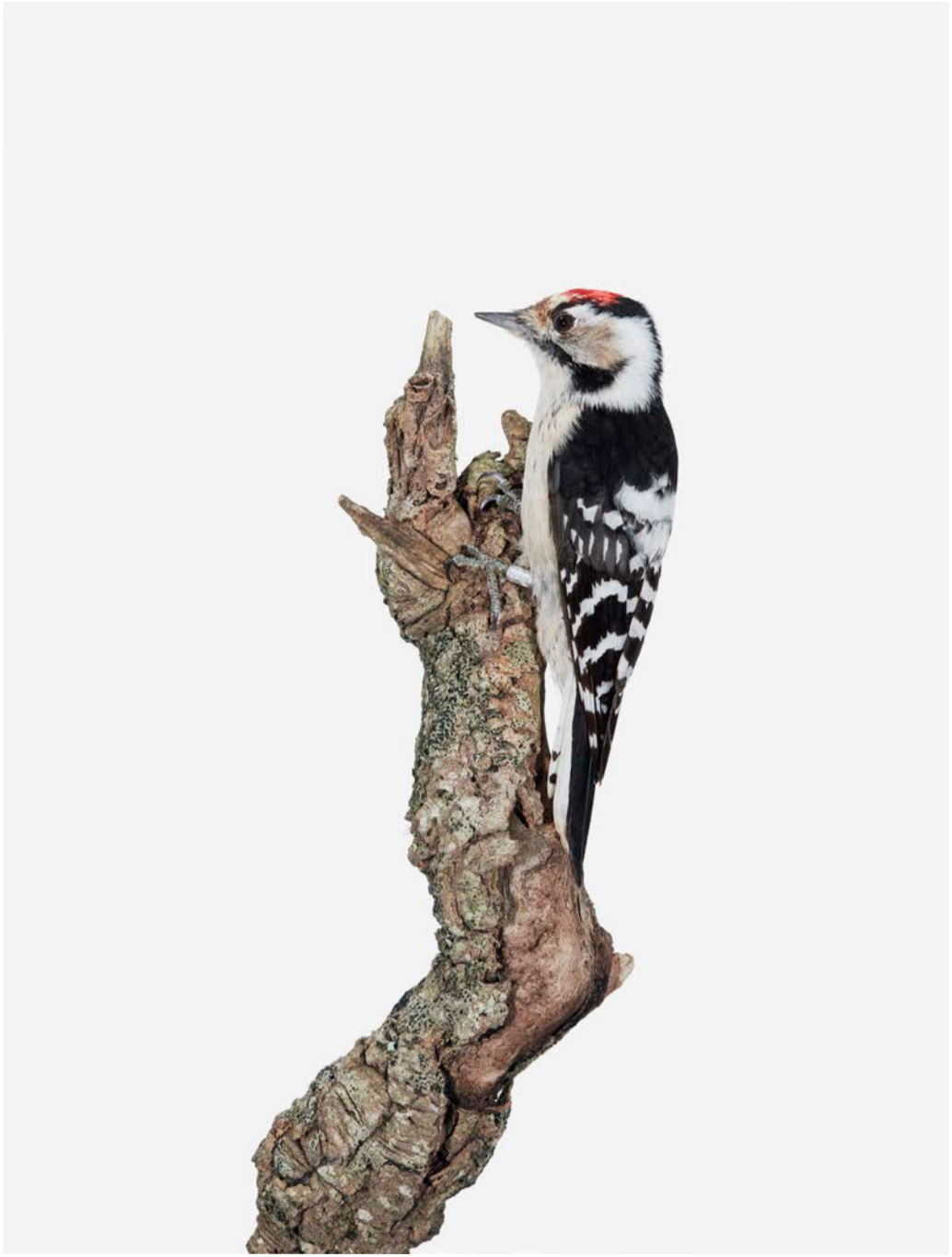
Asio Otus, 2025, pigment ink print, 90 x 120 cm



Merops apiaster 2, 2024, pigment ink print, 81 x 61 cm

Upupa epops 2, 2025, pigment ink print, 38 x 31 cm

Wanderer, Observer and Conveyor, 2018, Taik Persons (now Persons Projects), Berlin



Dendrocopos minor, 2025, pigment ink print, 45 x 34 cm

Nucifraga caryocatactes, 2025, Archival pigment print, paint, 61 x 81 cm

Falco tinnunculus, 2023, Archival pigment print, paint, 45 x 60 cm

Gestures, 2025, Helsinki Contemporary, Helsinki

Upupa Epops, 2019, Archival pigment print, paint, 61 x 81 cm, diptych

Sunflower, 2023, pigment ink print, 120 x 90 cm

Preening, 2025, pigment ink print, 81 x 61 cm

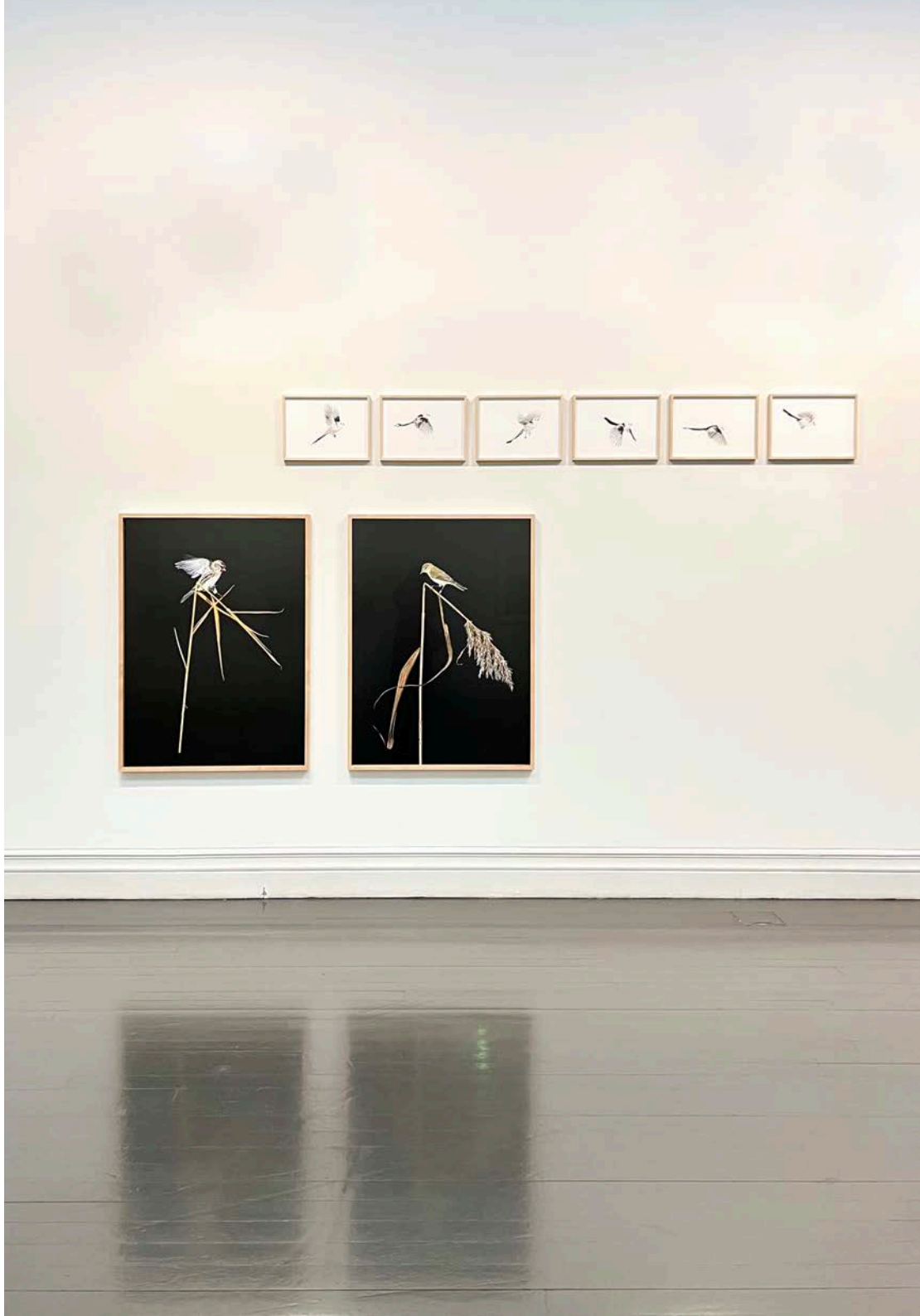
Sense of Wonder, 2020, Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki

On a Poplar Tree, 2023, pigment ink print, 81 x 61 cm

Phylloscopus Collybita, 2021, pigment ink print, 81 x 61 cm

Strong Breeze from North East, 2021, pigment ink print, 81 x 61 cm

New Perspectives Through Photography - 25 years of the Helsinki School, 2021, Tadehalli Helsinki



Unexpected Warm Day, 2023, archival pigment ink print, 92 x 49 cm, each, triptych

Hirundo Rustica, 2024, archival pigment ink print, 32 x 40 cm, each, set of 6

Sense of Wonder, 2020, Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki

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