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# Native

The image world of **Mona Kuhn** (1969, Sao Paolo) is a lush, decadent and elegant place, but one that is also indeterminate and mystified. The people look desirable and the landscapes exotic, the colours of the surroundings are warm, and the blur in some of the images address the steamy intimacy of the Amazon rainforest. The voyage, as Baudelaire says, takes you back to yourself, "where even the landscape resembles you", and with this remark in mind we can assume that this is what is at stake here: these images are in fact an artistic reflection of the psychological state of Mona Kuhn.

Although born in this country, Kuhn – from German descent – has displaced herself from her birthplace Brazil and this makes defining her as a 'native' somewhat problematic. Living abroad creates another identity altogether, a strange mix of memories and experiences in which nostalgia and reality (sometimes confusingly) blur into one another and with that, create a whole new personal perspective on the world.

When Kuhn decided to confront her past and return to Brazil, this 'inverted odyssey' (in the words of Shelley Rice, author of an essay on this work) made her discover a world as she was creating it. Native, therefore, is more than an atmospheric reportage of beautiful young people in the nude. It is also a meditation on a photographic place, removed from the concept of distance; a heritage that naturally flourishes within, no matter where you go.

[monakuhn.com](http://monakuhn.com)









