

CABIN FEVER

VALENTINA NOCE

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CABIN FEVER

What kind of miniaturist enchantment would lead someone to end the world? (Mohaghegh 2019, p. 1)

The simulation of the contingent conditions of a closed environment is a recurring expedient in space-profiling. The insertion of breathing creatures renders these blank volumes into disguised planets, artificially functioning through technological operations. The project “Cabin Fever” is an allusive mention to technology that generates an autonomous platform, “a supra-territorial catalyst that no longer recognises shelter, habitat, colony, or hive, shattering the glass terrarium and its unqualified principles of adaptation and evolutionary teleology”. (Mohaghegh 2019, p. 159) Expanding the reading of reptile enclosures - tanks, terrariums, cages, cabinets - as a visual device for investigation, the five images are annotating the technological fragments that compose these environments. The spatial consequence of this accumulation of devices - artificial lights, plastic props, dusty glass facades - mediated through superimposed technological planning, is the folk syndrome of cabin fever, the psychological distress connected to confinement in a closed area, causing anxiety, irritability, boredom. Alluding to the ambiguity of authenticity in certain spaces within the blurring sphere of architecture and nature, the project resembles the restlessness of entering a technological miniature of the outer world.

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I once asked a friend if the reptiles he breeds recognise him. “They just learned to trust the outside presence that feeds them”. The body of the carer is the only honest interaction they entertain with nature (Fig 01).

Decorative gypsum skulls and frozen mice: primary and recreation requests are adapted through an artificial set of disposition. The establishment of a controlled environment is managed by technology, performing a pervasive layer that generates space: timed neon lights, structural glass, electric vents, temperature control (Fig 02).

Technological system and solutions provide a resolution for space, solving a closed environment from the inside, but yet are not embraced in their intimate meaning; some props are required - plastic logs, meditation rooms, a poster of Paris, dusty succulents, coffee-break area, cinnamon candles - for a taste of memory of the IRL (Fig 05).

Fig 01 Scales, skin, pupil. Image by Valentina Noce, 2023.



Exercising a hypnotic effect / Working by means of ritual incantation and repetition / insidious rhythmic poetic

ALL- ENCOM- PASSING OBLIVION

The performative engagement
of the neo-magical thought
devoid of its former intention
~~the prophetic without horizon~~

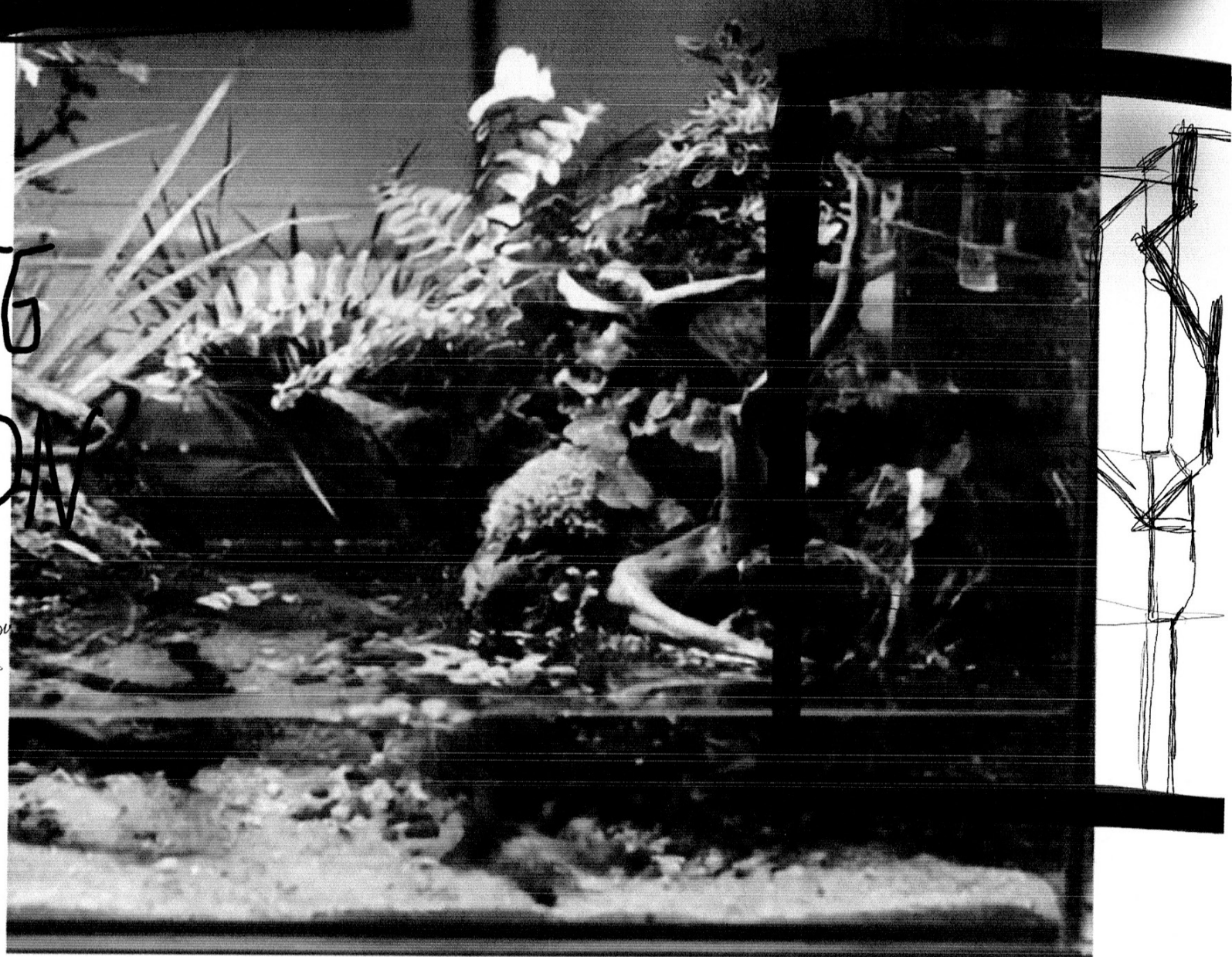
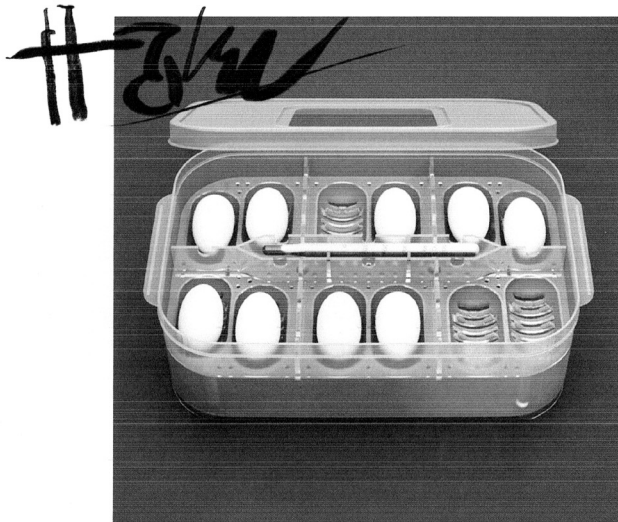


Fig 03 Controlled system for hatching eggs
Or, natural replicas inserted in an ecosystem simulation.
Image by Valentina Noce, 2023.



*Valley of the diamonds and
the giant snake - nest
of the devil bird-man //*

Fig 04 Stacked glass units for reptiles
Hygienic transparency stimulates cabin fever, the restlessness and irritability
condition of being inside.
Image by Valentina Noce, 2023.

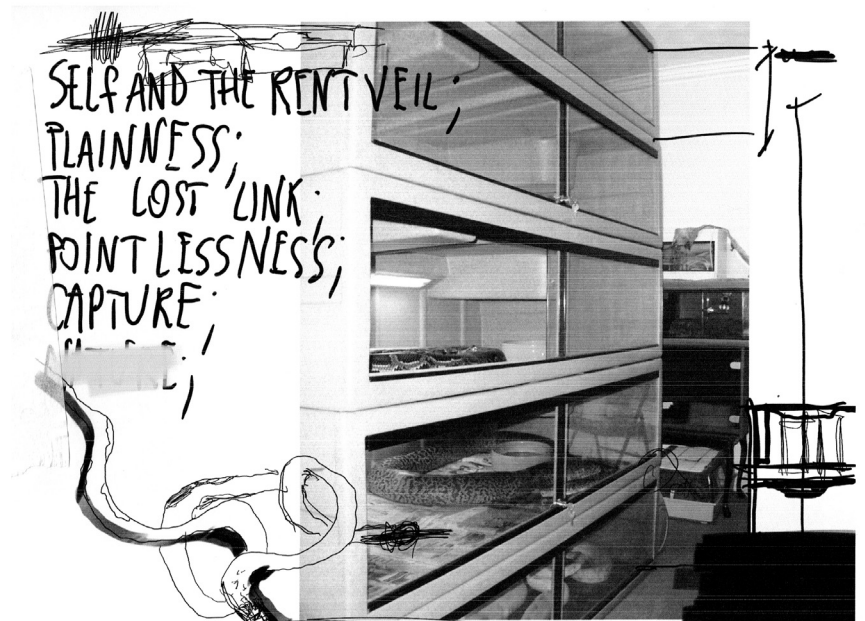


Fig 05 Visualisation of the Author's Reptile Terrarium Project.

Image by Valentina Noce, 2023.



AN UNBROKEN TRADITION
DEDICATES ITSELF TO CONTEMPLATION
OF THE DESERT AS AN APPROPRIATE
LOCUS FOR BOTH TEAR AND
EXALTATION