

Hummingbird Water

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Organized by Institute for Interspecies Art and Relations

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1 : 4

Sugar : Water

Dissolve sugar in boiling water and let cool to room temperature.

Pour into the feeder and hang outdoors.

*Replace mixture and clean feeder at minimum once a week or as
needed.*

While it can be difficult to curate one's garden visitors, hanging a hummingbird feeder is an intention to do just that. It is a direct invitation to the world's smallest family of birds, Trochilidae. Countless homes adorn their yards with swinging jars of sugar-water covered in red plastic flowers compelling the little birds to come to them.

When they come, one quickly becomes familiar with various displays of territorial behavior: zipping, squabbling, and chattering. They may also find hummingbirds are not the only visitors, despite their intentions. Other birds with a predilection for sap like orioles, woodpeckers and warblers, as well as bees, wasps, and ants may all become common consumers.

Like many gestures towards other species, the outcome is unpredictable and evolving, and it is not without upkeep. Yet, embracing this experiential process can unlock the pleasure of being part of these entanglements; to see oneself as an agent and participant among such diverse cohabitators.

This set of six artists use embodied and material gestures towards connecting to the nonhuman world. Offerings, intention, and communion take the shape of garments, video, collage, sculpture, and prints. Desire and play intertwine, finding the lightness of these relations amid precarious ecological times yet pointing towards their necessity in our evolution forward.

Heavy Manners Library
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