



—

“And one man made a speech about the slaughtering of green and while he was speaking a woman dug a pit in me placed within it a green branch laid it gently as though it were her daughter and gave it water”

Mario Petrucci

## Artists

—

## Lucy & Jorge Orta

Lucy + Jorge Orta’s collaborative practice draws upon urgent ecological and social sustainability issues to create artworks employing diverse media, including drawing, sculpture, installation, couture, painting, silkscreen, photography, video and light, as well as staged ephemeral interventions and performances. Amongst their most emblematic series are: *Refuge Wear* and *Body Architecture*, portable minimum habitats bridging architecture and dress; *HortiRecycling*, the food chain in global and local contexts; *70 x 7 The Meal*, the ritual of dining and its role in community networking; *Nexus Architecture*, alternative modes of establishing the social link; and *Clouds* and *OrtaWater*, addressing the increasing scarcity of this vital resource and the problems arising from its pollution and corporate control. For this project the artists received the *Green Leaf Award* in 2007 for artistic excellence with an environmental message, presented by the United Nations Environment Programme in partnership with the Natural World Museum at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway.

The bronze olive branch is sourced from the Tuscan olive groves onto which are carefully grafted the delicate blossoms of handcrafted glass flowers blown by the Murano master artisan Danilo Zanella.

This sculpture is part of Lucy + Jorge Orta’s ambitious Perpetual Amazonia project. During an expedition to the Peruvian Amazon in 2009, the artists began photographing hundreds of rainforest plant species, creating a personalised collection of florilegium they continue to add to today. These florae have since been transformed into large format photographs, drawings, couture works, porcelain and now glass. Each artwork is accompanied by a certificate of ‘moral ownership’ assigned to a precise hectare of land in the Amazon. Each of the 10,000 one-metre by one-metre subplots is identified by its Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) reference stated on the certificate. Through this project the Orta’s campaign to restore our focus to the world around us, both its beauty and its imperilled state. Tree of Life is a powerful allegory of the fragile balance among the many thousands of species that depend on the Amazon for sustenance.

Perpetual Amazonia: Tree of Life (2013)

—

Hand blown Murano Glass, Bronze,  
UTM certificate of moral ownership 135 x 55 x 65 cm  
Courtesy of the artists & Berengo studio