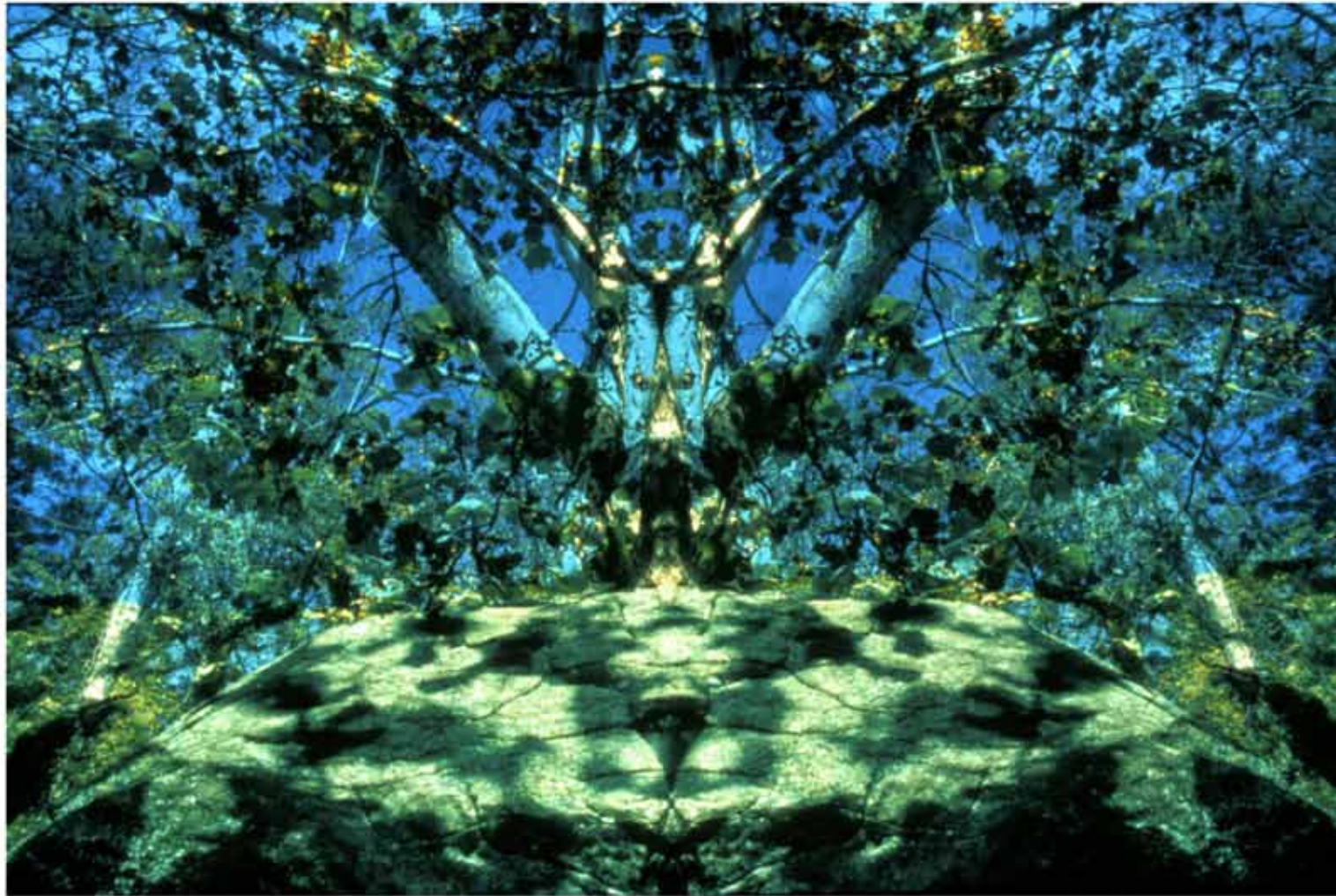


Nature Totems

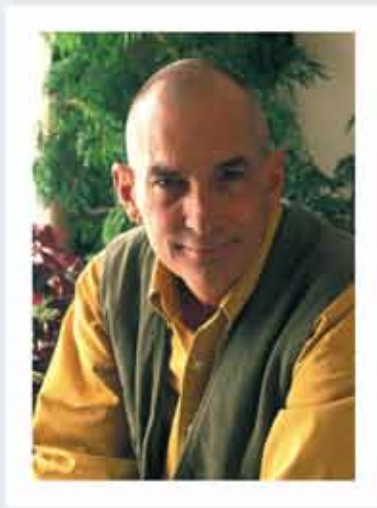


A photographic study

Text and photographs by William Rain

William Rain lives in Boulder Colorado.
He is husband,
friend,
gardner,
nature photographer
and poet.

The crystal
and its hidden spectrum...
The mind and its hidden light.
- Rain



Totem and Mandalas

The totem is a native structure built to represent the genealogy of mythology, a history of the influences of trees, animals, rocks and sky on a peoples' consciousness.

The mandala is a Hindu visual map of deities representing the essential nature of God. It is said to be used as an aid in reaching cosmic awareness. By meditating on the image one is drawn into a world of divine order, where all things are in a relationship to each other in perfect harmony.

By applying both of these principles to a photographic theme, a natural Rorschach is created, our modern mandala. This visual tool is used to stimulate the psyche to remember or release secrets that are buried beyond our usual recall.

This collection of photographically created nature totems and mandalas is a visual echo or after image of our consciousness, a tool for you, the viewer, to discover the other faces, beings and thoughts that reside in your natural mind.

- Rain

NATURE TOTEMS

Coyote

Far on the ridge, he's there,
alone with the sun, drinking fire.
Coyote!
Coyote!
Spirit of dust and sage.
He's there, far on the ridge.
Ghost of the desert
alone with the moon
howling medicine into the open night.

- Rain



MEDICINE SONG

Cottonwood



PASSAGE

Rock formations



ALTAR

Redwood



HEADDRESS

Autumn forest



MEDITATION

Cliff

Primeval Poet

The dragonfly
again and again...

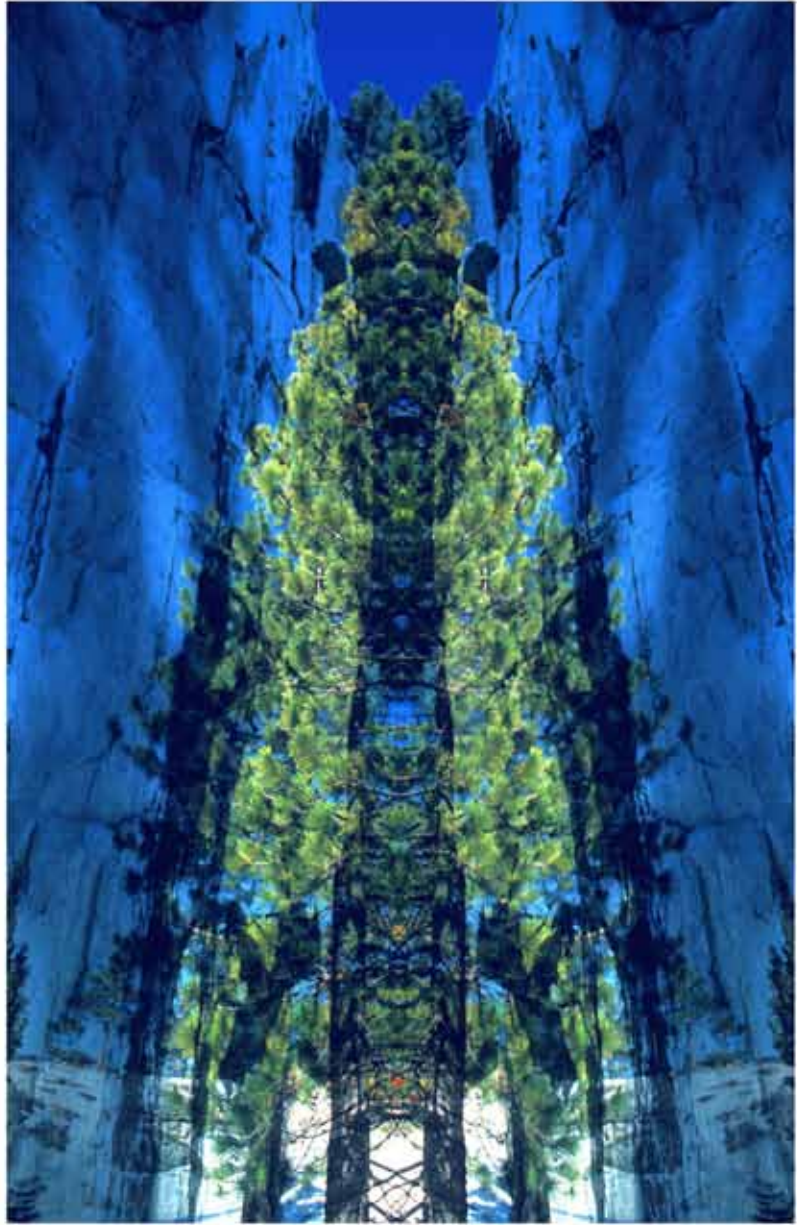
a verse
so quick and still.

- Rain



AUTUMN MANDALA

fall foliage



GUARDIAN

Standing pines



NIGHT COUNTRY

Woods

Totem Song

My thoughts are becoming animals

My thoughts are becoming tall trees

My thoughts are becoming birds

My thoughts taking wing

My thoughts are flying away

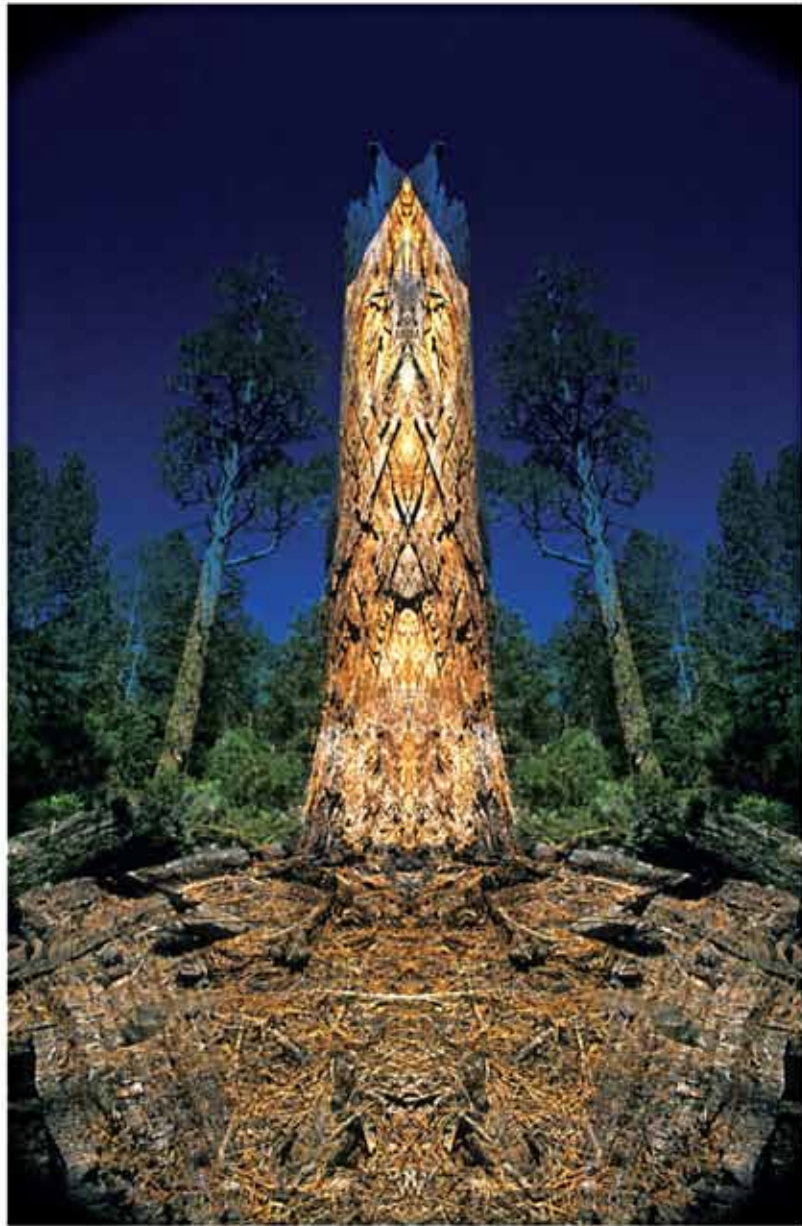
My thoughts are flying away...

- Rain



ELK TALE

In the meadow



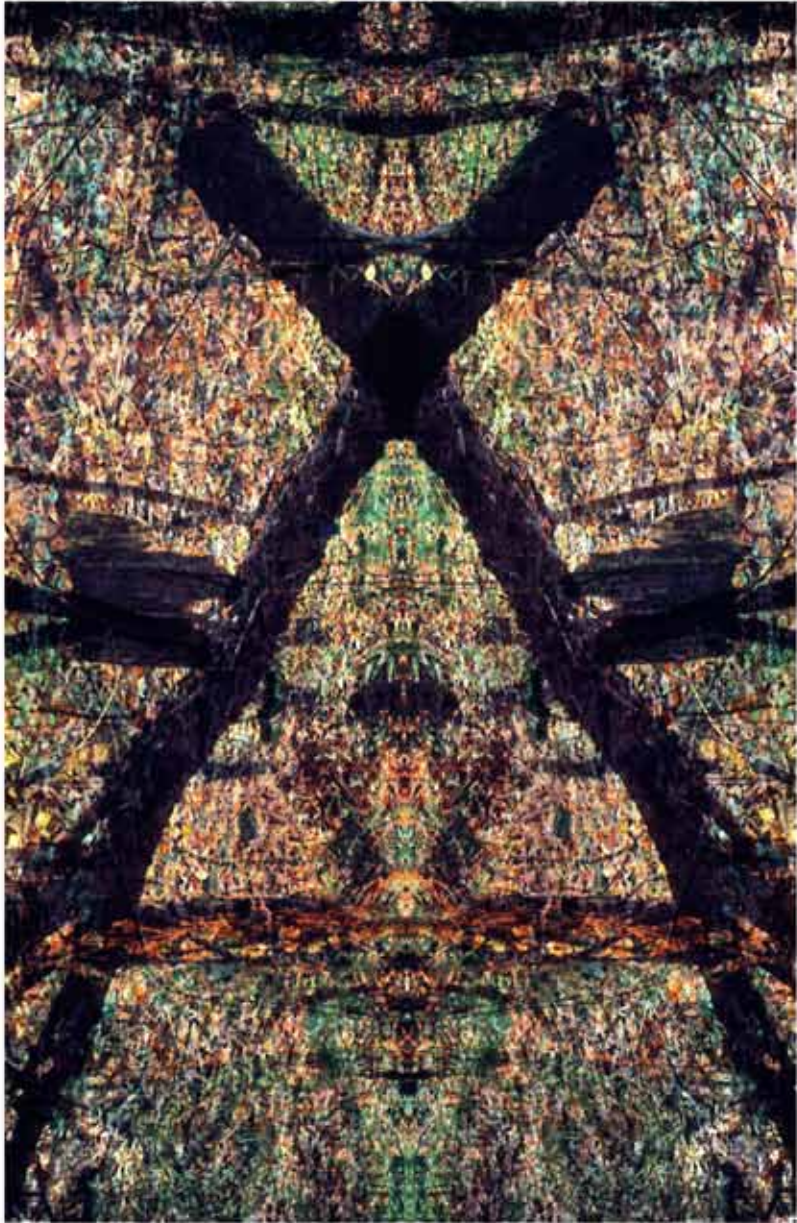
GRANDFATHER

Ponderosa pine



OWL MAN

Ponderosa log



AZTEC TAPESTRY

Fall foliage



GOLDEN EYED FROG

Autumn arches



SPIRITUAL DIALOGUE

Ice formation



VIBRATION

High Sierra

EARTH MIND

As I look and listen
to the expressions
on the cliff face

a mirage forms
reflecting my stare

cliff face and I
gaze upon gaze

together
we muse on one another

I see...
I am these stones
with mind.

I hear...
I am this flowing stream
with thoughts

All around me
pine cones and pebbles
are my poems

The open blue sky
is my own...dear energy

Through natural reflection
My original being appears

Formed and sculptured
full of mind and spirit
seeing myself in stone

hearing myself in water.

- Rain



EARTH MEMORY

Chaco ruins



ROCK FACE

Sandstone



LIVING CIRCLE

Nasturtium



ASCENDING

Fern



DEATH MASK

Charred bone



SOUL STONE

Rock garden



THE TEMPLE

Dam



THE GOD

Dam

Altar

Human Beings
in the sacred chamber,
Beating on drums
the size of spirit hearts.
Through the opening
in the above rafters....
The rhythmic pulse
ascends-- carrying me aloft.

The stars and great space inhale
swallow me whole.

Empty of self

I fall into the heart
of the original people..
same sound - same drum
the first prayer still expanding.
In this vision
with human beings in the chamber
of hearts and drums beating.

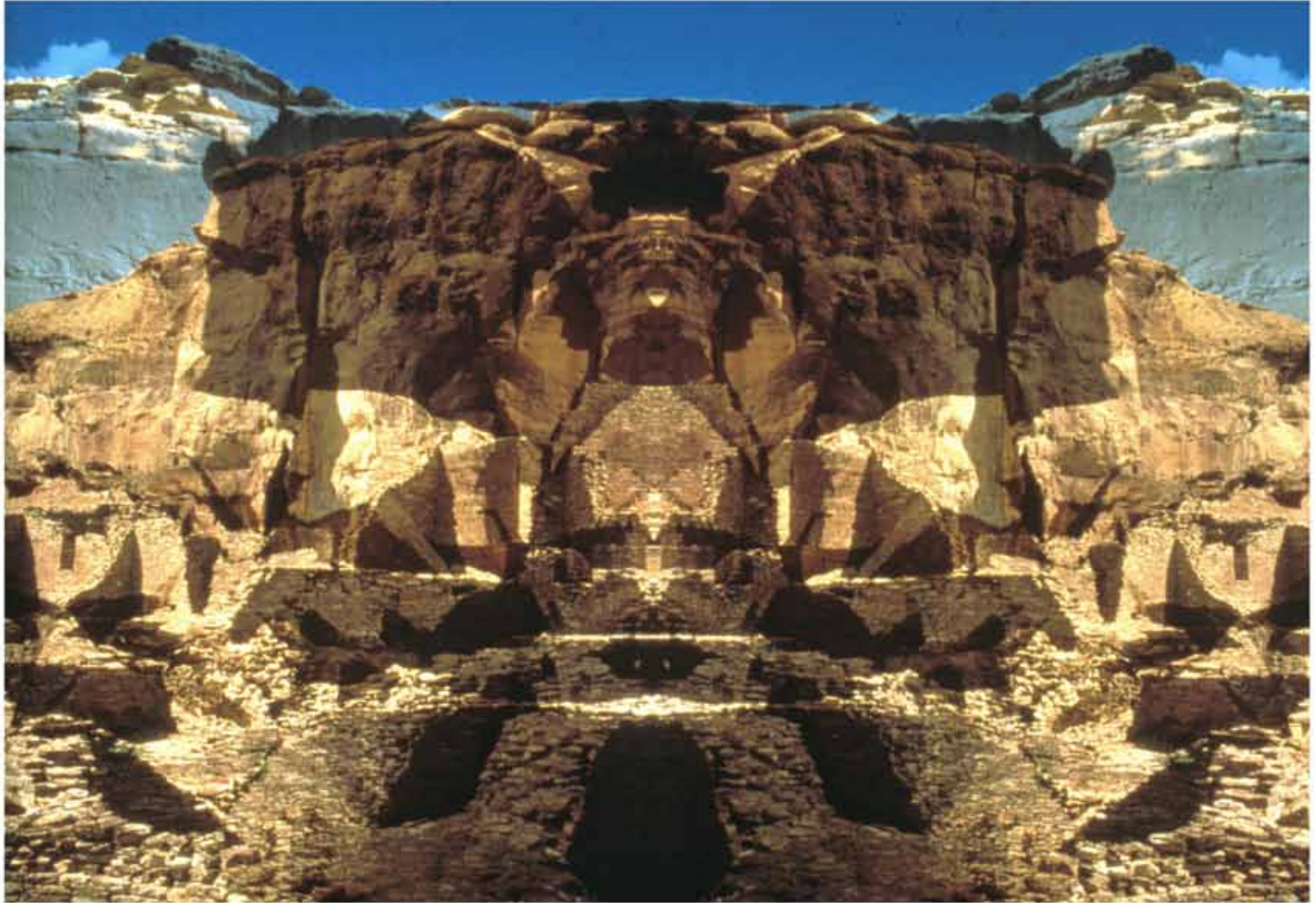
I see as a spirit,
with the eyes of a man...
I see,
the Earth, luminous with love..
afloat, buoyant in nothing...
Shining... Shining...

- Rain



UPPER WORLD

Mesa Verde



SHAMAN

Anasazi ruins



SHRINE

Maple grove

Flag of the Earth

A living flag, Earth emblem, this Pine.
Its bark a parchment marking the years,
a map of its course from seed. A chart
of its growth through storm and season.
Boughs navigate skyward, cones fall about
like used prayer bells, releasing secrets
only discernible to Earth and stone. High
branches and low branches intone the wind.
Pine needles tuned to hymn with each stir
of the mutable air. An instrument of nature music,
a musical flag of the Earth...This Pine.

- Rain



SACRED PINES



TURTLE ISLAND

Sycamore and boulder



SHRINE

Aspen grove

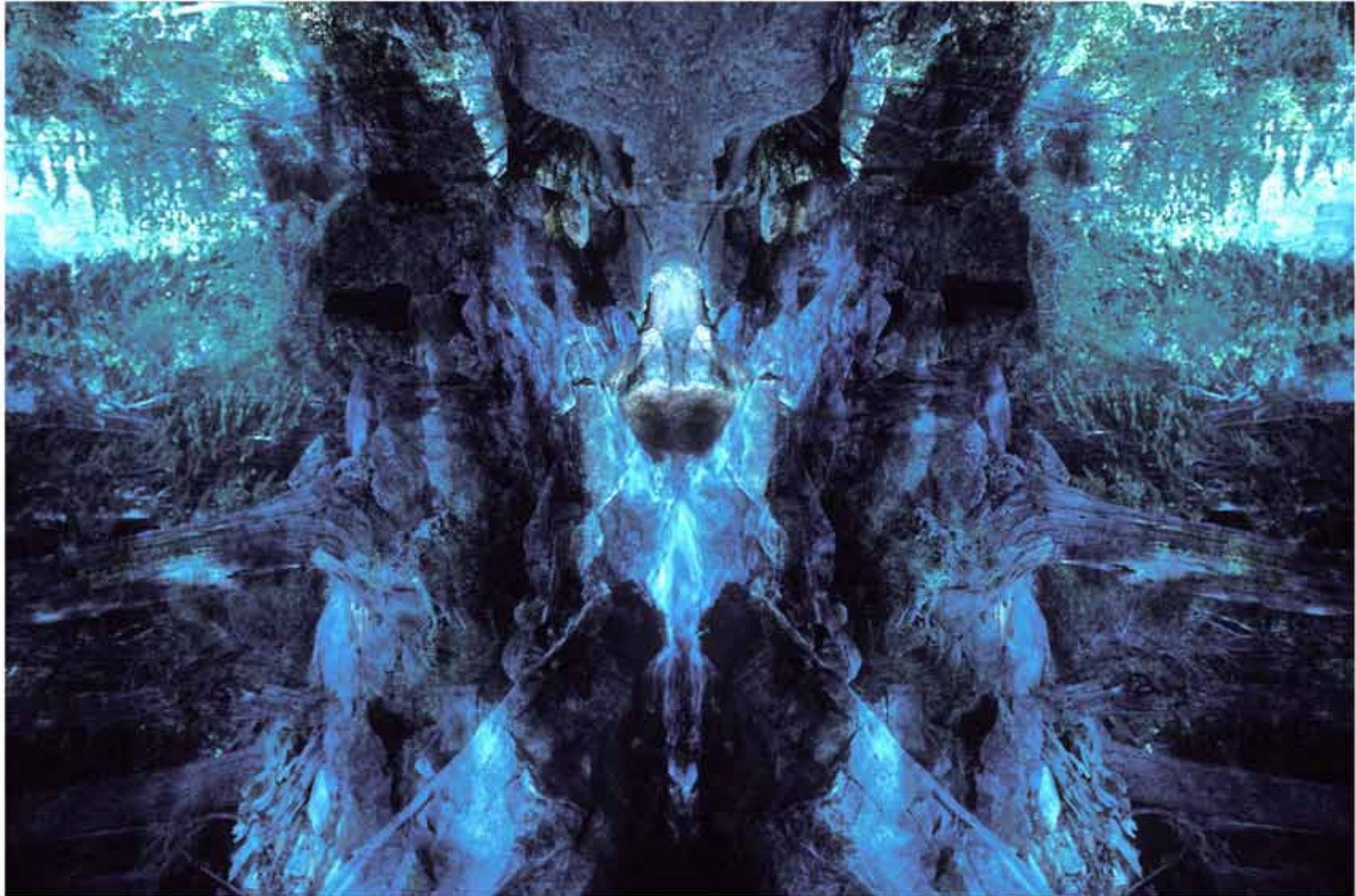
Fox and Crow

One spirit
is the trick
between the fox and crow.

One spirit
red as fire
leaps into smoke
flies off as crow

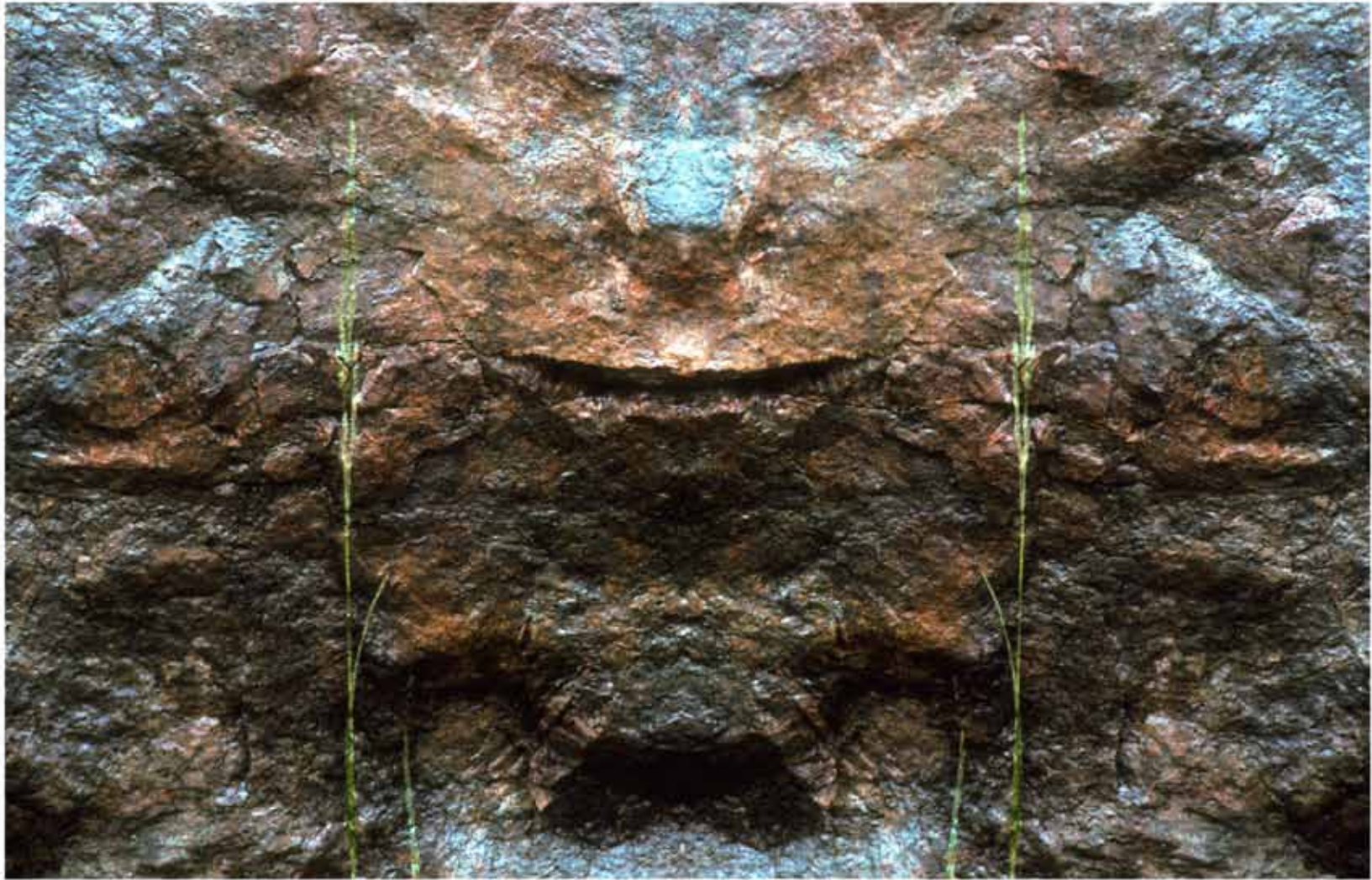
One spirit
changing tails.

- Rain



WOLF

Country stream



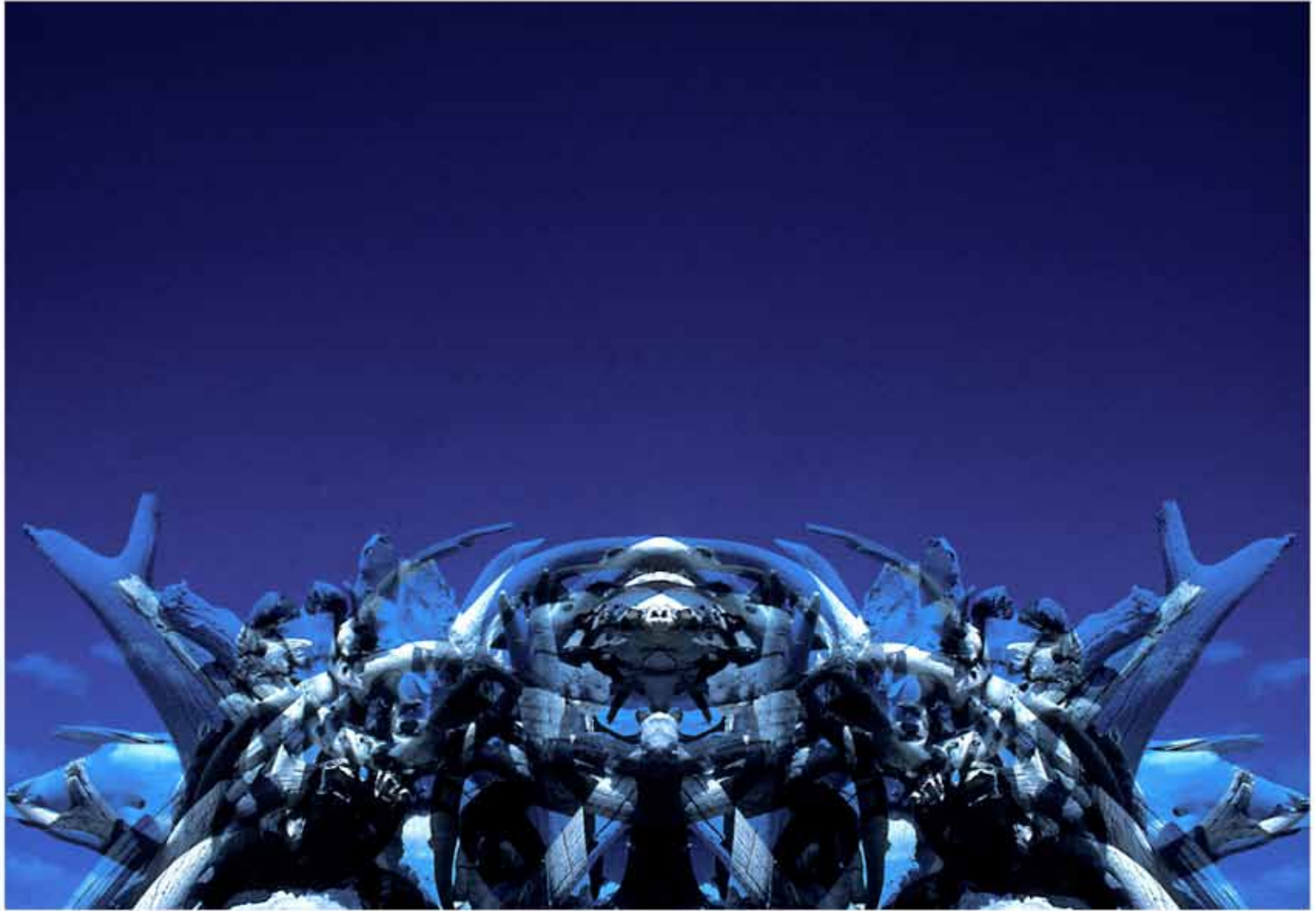
ROCK FACE

Boulder



FAMILY

Mushrooms



DREAMS

Antler pile



BEAR POWER

Stone outcrop



RITUAL SPACE

Kiva



PRAYER SPACE

Effort

I saw the effort
in the great blue Heron

Startled off his silent moment in the stream
His way blocked by vines and trees
by heavy strokes in the wing
and hard push with claw and leg
he worked his way upward
over the obstacle in his way

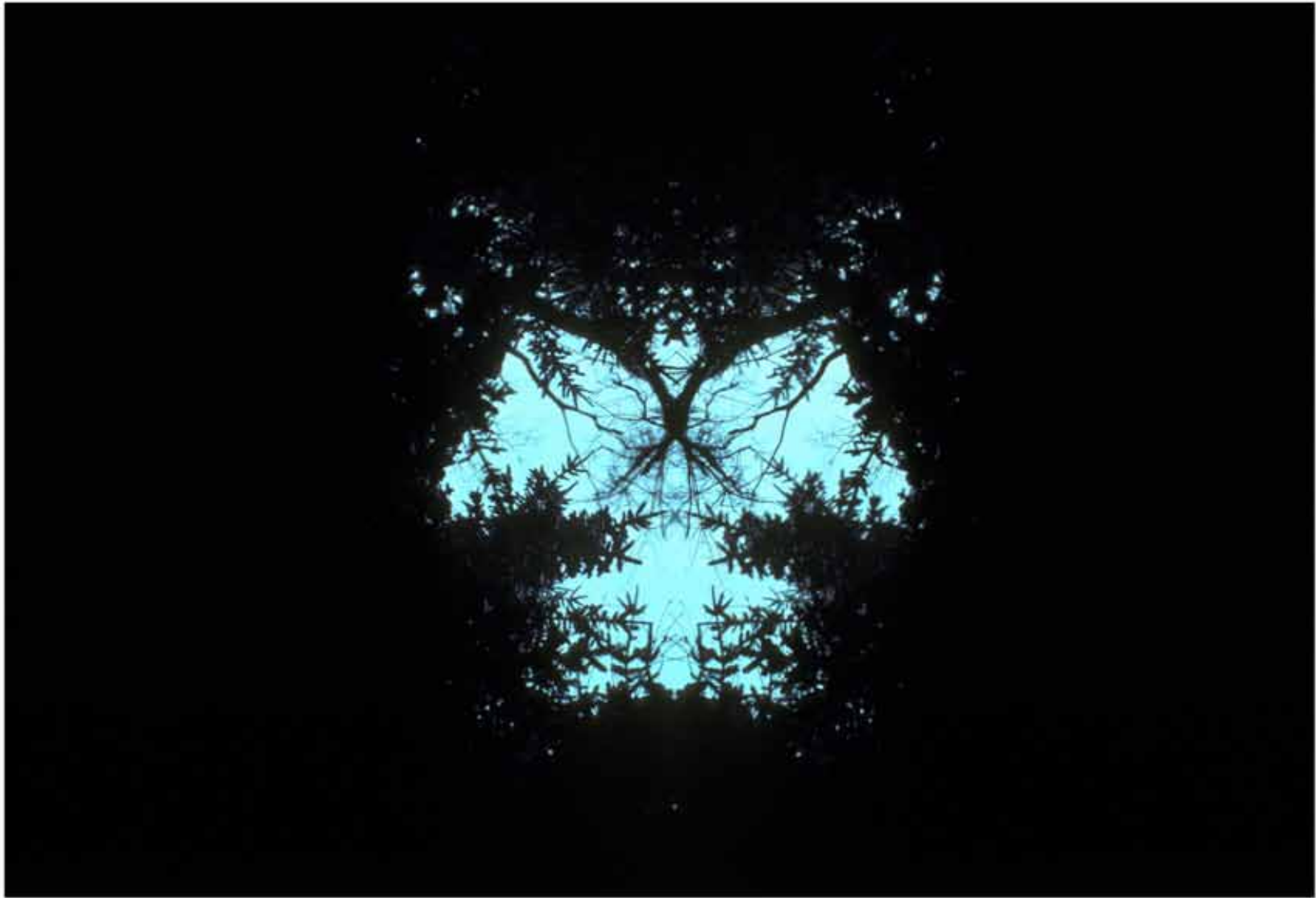
My teacher
the man who carries a beautiful arrow
tells an effort tale
of a tiny white splinter of a bone
with an ant on the end
working it into his hole.

In the length of time shadows move
the ant maneuvered
crawled over his splinter
a thousand ways
around and around over and over
angling for his entrance
till with vigilance
ant and bone down the hole

Both tales tell me - all beings
bird ant man
share in the making of effort
To rise above the obstacle
To find the entrance.

- Rain





SKY HAWK

Forest canopy



WINTER LODGE

Ice storm



MIRAGE

Winter thicket



EAGLE STONE

Buttes



ENERGY

High alpine

Vision

The hawk,
sees
his own feather...
floating in the air.

- Rain

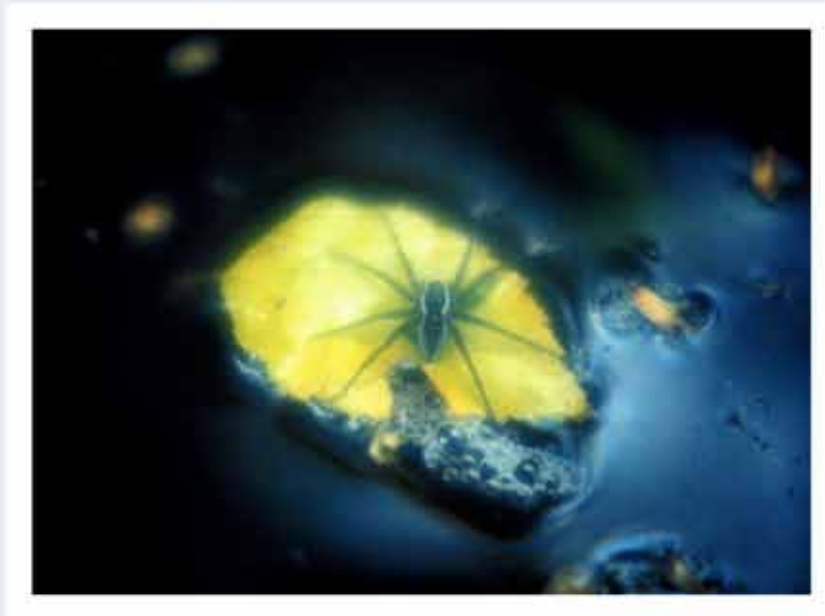
NATURE TOTEMS

Earth Heart

Bosom for souls
Territory for spirits

Earth Heart...
Roost for all beings.

- Rain



NATURE TOTEMS

OBSERVATIONS ON NATURE
WILLIAM RAIN

