

## **Natural History. Photographs by Luis Castelo**

**From the 7<sup>th</sup> of February to the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2025**

The exhibition displays more than 40 images of specimens from the collections of the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (MNCN), shot by the artist and researcher Luis Castelo.

For the first time, along with the photographs, some of the specimens that served as models for the photographs will be exhibited, including naturalised animals, skeletons, eggs, biological preparations from the Collections of Birds, Mammals and Herpetology of the MNCN. The simultaneity between both allows the author to communicate one of his objectives, connecting art and science.

Additionally, in the words of Castelo, the two techniques present in the exhibition, photography and taxidermy have a close relation, due to the fact that both possess the ability to paralyse time, freezing poses and gestures.

On this occasion, the birds of paradise, platypuses, kakapo bird and many others have taken on a new life through images, establishing a dialogue between the historical and the contemporary. The photography technique employed is scanning, which allows one to obtain digital images using a scanner instead of a conventional photo camera.

Luis Castelo is a Doctor of Fine Art and a professor of photography in the Design and Images department of the Faculty of Fine Arts in the Complutense University of Madrid. Through his work he reflects memory, time and representations of nature.