

The Spirit of the

B·U·D

or

The Sweet Certainty
of Deliverance
from the Darkness
that Surrounds Us



An Illustrated Morality Tale
in Nine Scenes

by Böhler & Orendt



ORDER OF EVENTS

EMERGENCE



IMMINENCE



PRESUMPTION



INCANTATION



EPIPHANY



GATHERING



ASSEMBLY



EMBARKATION



DEPARTURE

1 Emergence

No one really knows why, but one fine day some of the monkeys inhabiting the tree of life since the beginning of time fell from its crown. Having been nothing but monkeys among monkeys for thousands of years, the fallen ones experienced a puzzling transformation: Not only did they lose all their fur during the fall (except for some weird patches on their heads), they also started behaving eminently un-animal-like.



2 Imminence

Thus, just after touching the ground, the Furless began developing an odd common belief: It seemed to them that, like themselves, *terra*, the planet that had produced the tree of life (and all other trees), called for substantial changes!

For starters — very fond of their own new nakedness — they thought of stripping the shaggy old celestial body of the vast untidy layers of wild plants and creatures that overgrew its surface. For this it came handy that fire had put itself at their service in the wake of their transformation.



3 Presumption

Their altered mindset came along with a brisk and industrious way of handling things. Within only a few centuries, the Furless achieved impressive results with their pruning efforts: By 2021, they had erased 2.5 billion hectares of forests and over 60% of all vertebrae, but, at that point, they didn't yet see enough convincing reasons to give it a break. Meanwhile, all the perished creatures' spirits were not resigned to drifting through the afterlife uselessly, each on their own, in eternal isolation.



Hence, having just ascended from the remains of uncountable burned up biotic communities, they sought relief by joining in a many-voiced chant of grievance.

Wondrously, this chant didn't go unheard. The channeled energy of their collective yearning for a universal betterment brought about the most unique manifestation of a very powerful preternatural super-being:

The Spirit of the Benevolent Utopization Device.



Entering the minds of the pitiful creatures who were still persevering on *terra*, *The Spirit of the B.U.D.* spoke like this to inspire them with its prophecy: “Eventually, in a time not far from now, the Furless will receive a call to the better beyond, equaling their removal from the terrestrial biosphere for good. This will happen through a magnificent redemptive vessel, the *Benevolent Utopization Device*, and of all living beings, it behooves you to build this conveyance!”



And so, elated by what they just learned, the newly enlightened ones set out to fulfill their world-changing duty. Each according to its ability, the animals strived to collect the resources needed for their formidable task. *Nelumbo nucifera*, the Indian Lotus, willingly contributed its best petals for the sublime device's hull.

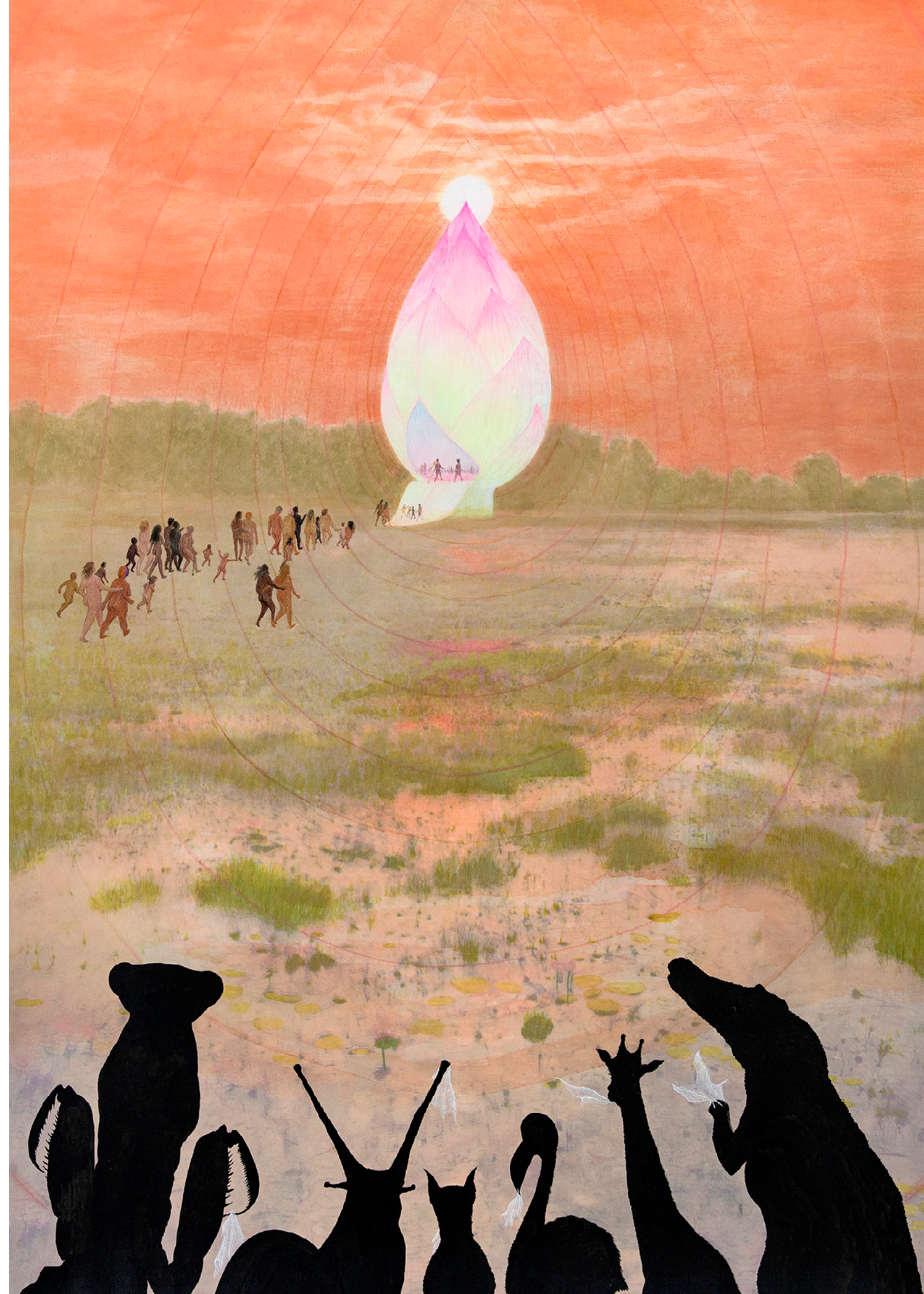


The subsequent assembly was a jolly and playful happening. Birds and mammals, carnivores and herbivores, Rodentia and Chiroptera, teamed up for their colossal goal.

The precognition of the upcoming new state of the world — they could clearly sense it — made their hearts jump in joy, and they danced and continued building in exaltation.



As soon as the construction work was finished, the structure started radiating a luring chant, utterly irresistible for the Furless. They blissfully flocked to its source, and — miracle of miracles — the vessel seemed to easily accommodate all of them without ever getting overcrowded! The wild creatures who had worked so hard to manufacture the *B.U.D.* — watching the scene from a safe distance — didn't trust their eyes: 7.754.847.014 of the Furless already found their way into it, and there were more to follow! Overwhelmed by their emotions, the animal beholders waved them goodbye with their handkerchieves.



After the very last of the Furless had entered the vessel, the gap in its hull closed. A bloodcurdling high-pitched howl shrilled through the night, followed by an incredibly bright flash of light. While all animals that were still nearby fled the site, the *B.U.D.* took off the ground, taking the Furless to a remote spot in the universe where they might persist self-sufficiently forevermore, kept from interfering with the fate of their former home planet ever again.



This booklet
complements the
nine-part painting series

*The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance
from the Darkness that Surrounds Us,*

first presented in the exhibition

The Wild, the Furless and the Spirit of the B.U.D.

at 68 Projects Berlin,
March 6 – April 17, 2021.

All depicted works
are digital photo collages,
printed on Hahnemühle watercolor paper,
overpainted with drawing ink, acrylics
and pastels, sized 133.5 × 92 cm

and made by
Böhler & Orendt
in 2021



“Against all the Cares of The World!”