



vert angl's roger  
cypress green  
granary yellow  
cadmium orange



+ cadmium orange



+ lemon yellow v

## ***Sampling Greens***

The Kinabalu / Crocker Range, Malaysia  
10-25 September 2012

### The Context

In 2012, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei pledged to protect the mountainous and inaccessible heartland of Borneo. The literal pinnacle of the Heart of Borneo's biodiversity is Mount Kinabalu, which at 4,095 m is the tallest peak in Southeast Asia. The flora and fauna of Kinabalu pose a mystery. Geologically speaking, the mountain is young—only 1.5 million years old—yet its biodiversity is unique: thousands of species occur only here and nowhere else on earth.

The origins of these “endemic” species are unknown. They are either young, i.e. recent evolutionary offshoots from lowland ancestors, adapted to the high elevation habitat, or old, i.e. relics of ecosystems that existed before, when Borneo was much cooler. The Kinabalu–Crocker Range Expedition, carried out by a team of 40 scientists from Malaysia's Sabah Parks and The Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis (NCB Naturalis), aims to discover whether Kinabalu is a cradle or a museum of biodiversity. During the expedition, animals, plants, and fungi will be sampled on Mount Kinabalu and in the surrounding Crocker Range. Afterwards, the high-throughput DNA analysis lab at NCB Naturalis will be used to try to crack the mountain's mystery. The results will provide important information to the conservation agencies concerned with the Heart of Borneo.

### The Project

The coordinates that I established for my own fieldwork during the expedition were pretty simple: every member of the expedition was sampling something, and I decided to sample

colors. My objective was to try to grasp the vast and probably endless variations of greens in the jungle.

My parameters were to only sample leaves, not the green on or of the ground, not the green of flowers, just green leaves and there were hundreds of them. The expedition moved from one location to another, almost on a daily basis. At each location I collected the leaves that would be my samples.

After collecting these samples in the field, I sat in the camp and tried to replicate the color of these leaves, thus creating a color chart. I made notes of the color's composition, how I had composed the color, and which color I added to reach the right shade of green. After I had done this, I made a line with the respective color on a separate sheet.

If the color of the leaf was consistent, I created one color and traced only one line, if the color was more complex I created two colors and two lines and if the color pattern was even more complex I created three colors, three lines, and so on.

It was an experiment that turned out to make more sense than I had initially expected: the color range changed alongside our change of location and latitude.

My capacity to discern the subtle variations in different shades of green grew with each day: by the end of the trip my eyes could only see green tones, in all their diversity. I collected approximately one hundred and eighty greens during these two weeks, and was certain that I would find and see even more if I had just stayed longer.



15 diptychs  
18×25 cm, 24×30 cm  
gouache and pencil on paper







Layang Layang, 13.09



landscape, Layang Layang

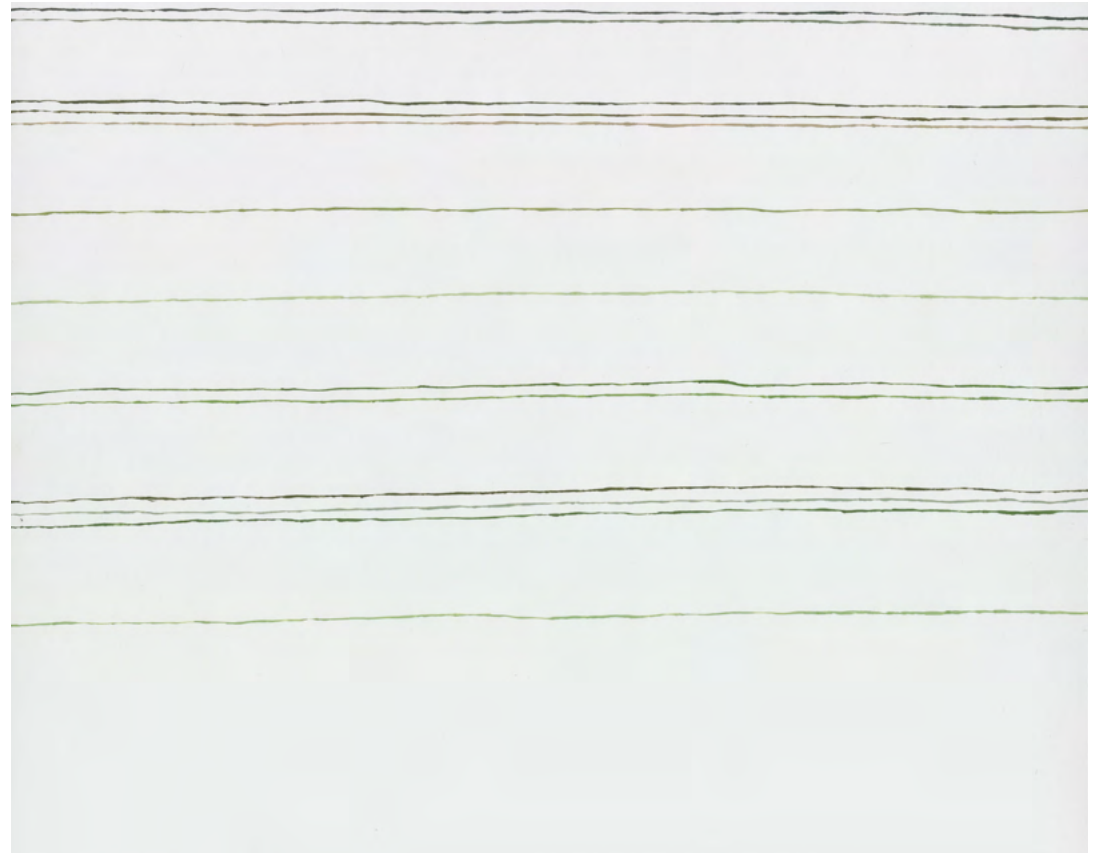




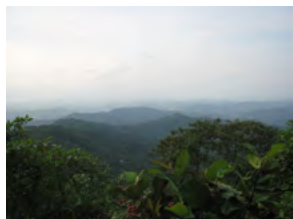




Inobong, 21.09

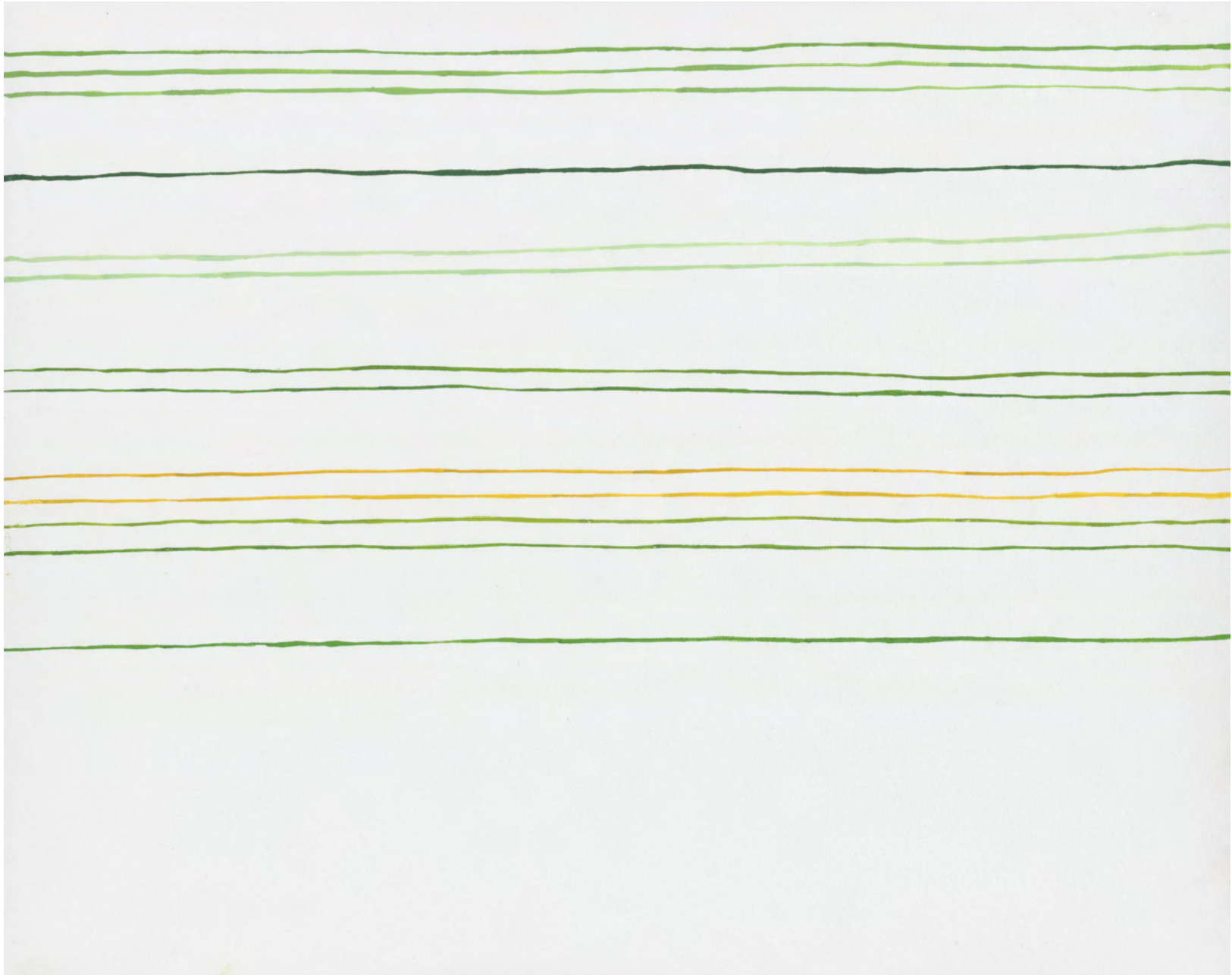


landscape, Inobong













Related exhibition

## *Entanglement*

Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen (St. Gallen, Switzerland)  
March 16–May 12, 2013

For more details of each work, see also:

*The Exact Opposite from Distance*, 2012 [↗](#)

*Entanglement · Vertical Landscape*, 2014 [↗](#)



Related exhibition

## ***Entanglement · Vertical Landscape***

8<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennale (Germany)  
May 29–August 3, 2014

For more details of each work, see also:

[\*The Exact Opposite from Distance\*, 2012](#) ↗

[\*Entanglement · Vertical Landscape\*, 2014](#) ↗





Related exhibition

## ***Irene Kopelman, a solo exhibition***

Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art (Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
May – August 2018

For more details of each work, see also:

[\*The Exact Opposite from Distance\*, 2012](#) ↗

[\*77 Colours of a Volcanic Landscape\*, 2016](#) ↗

[\*Puzzle piece #2\*, 2009, from \*The Levy's Flight\*](#) ↗



Irene Kopelman  
*Sampling Greens*

Curated by:

Giovanni Carmine (*Entanglement* — Kunst  
Halle Sankt Gallen, 2013)  
Juan Gaitan (*Vertical Landscape* — 8<sup>th</sup> Berlin  
Biennale for Contemporary Art, Berlin,  
2014)  
Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy and Samuel  
Saelemakers (Exhibition Witte de With  
Center for Contemporary Art, 2018)

Credit documentation of the exhibition:

Gunnar Meier (photograph installation view  
Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen)  
Nick Ash (photograph installation view  
KW Institute for Contemporary Art as  
part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennial)  
Kristien Daem (Witte de With Center for  
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