

Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests — 2020
ICCD and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for UNESCO

In recent years my photographic research has focused on trying to trigger a dialogue with the nature of things per se, trying to move away from the anthropocentric idea according to which everything revolves around the human being.

Timothy Morton, speaking of the Hyperobjects (extremely large and complex objects, such as the climate, of which we can only perceive fragments and never the entirety) reminds us that “the undular temporality emitted by the hyperobjects immerses us in a spacetime vortex that reminds us that man is not the measure of all things”.

With this idea, I initially worked on the geological landscape, investigating a temporality unknowable by the human being and, subsequently, I became interested in the study of “complex systems”.

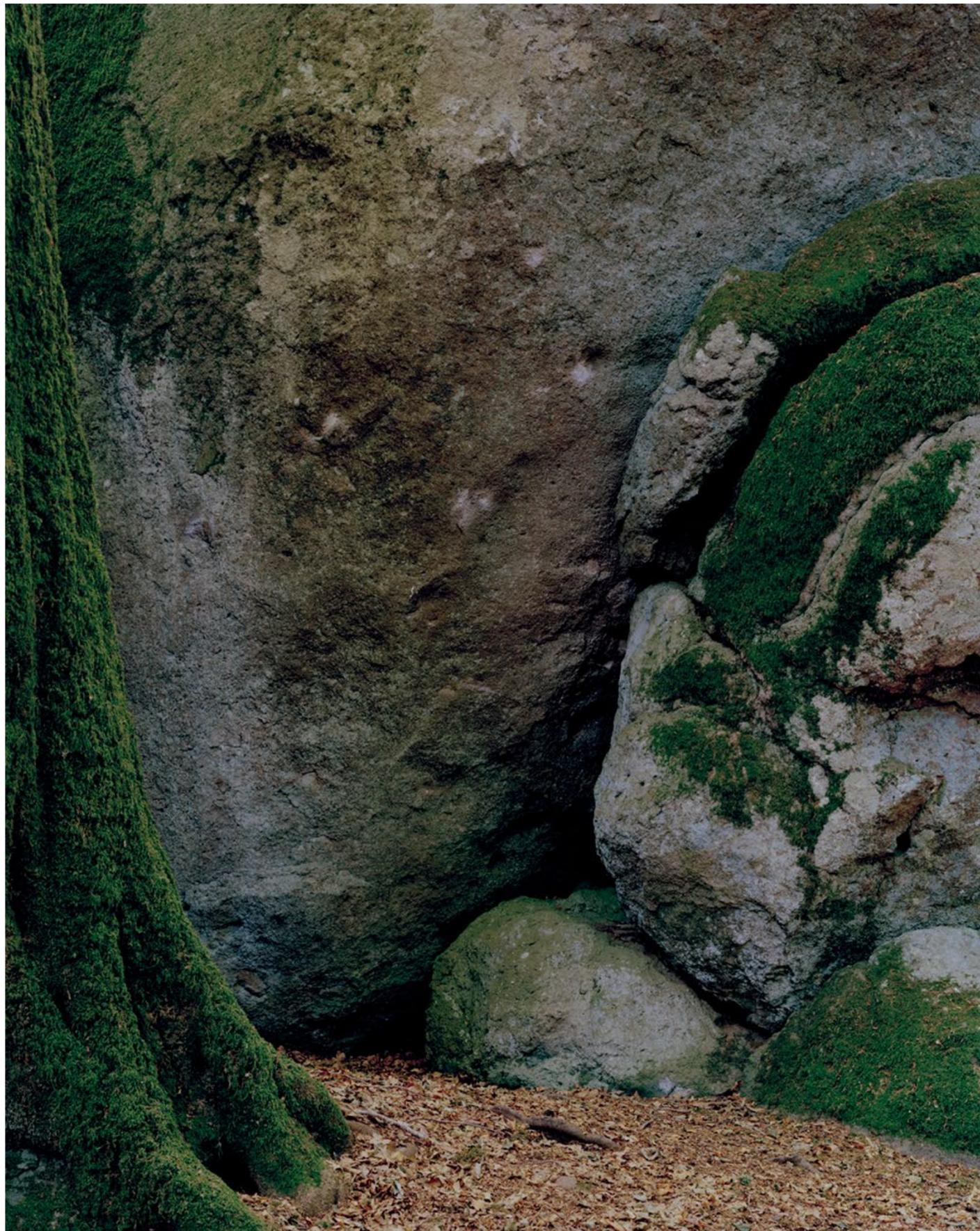
The self-organization of branches and leaves within a forest, the evolution of a mountain, the movement of birds' heads in relation to their field of vision, the movement of clouds and stars or the supercoiling of DNA, are some of the subjects of my images which, when related to each other, they suggest the idea of a complex and much deeper reality than that of human experience.

From the first moment I set foot in one of the Priordial beech forests, I realized the reasons why these beech woods have become part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

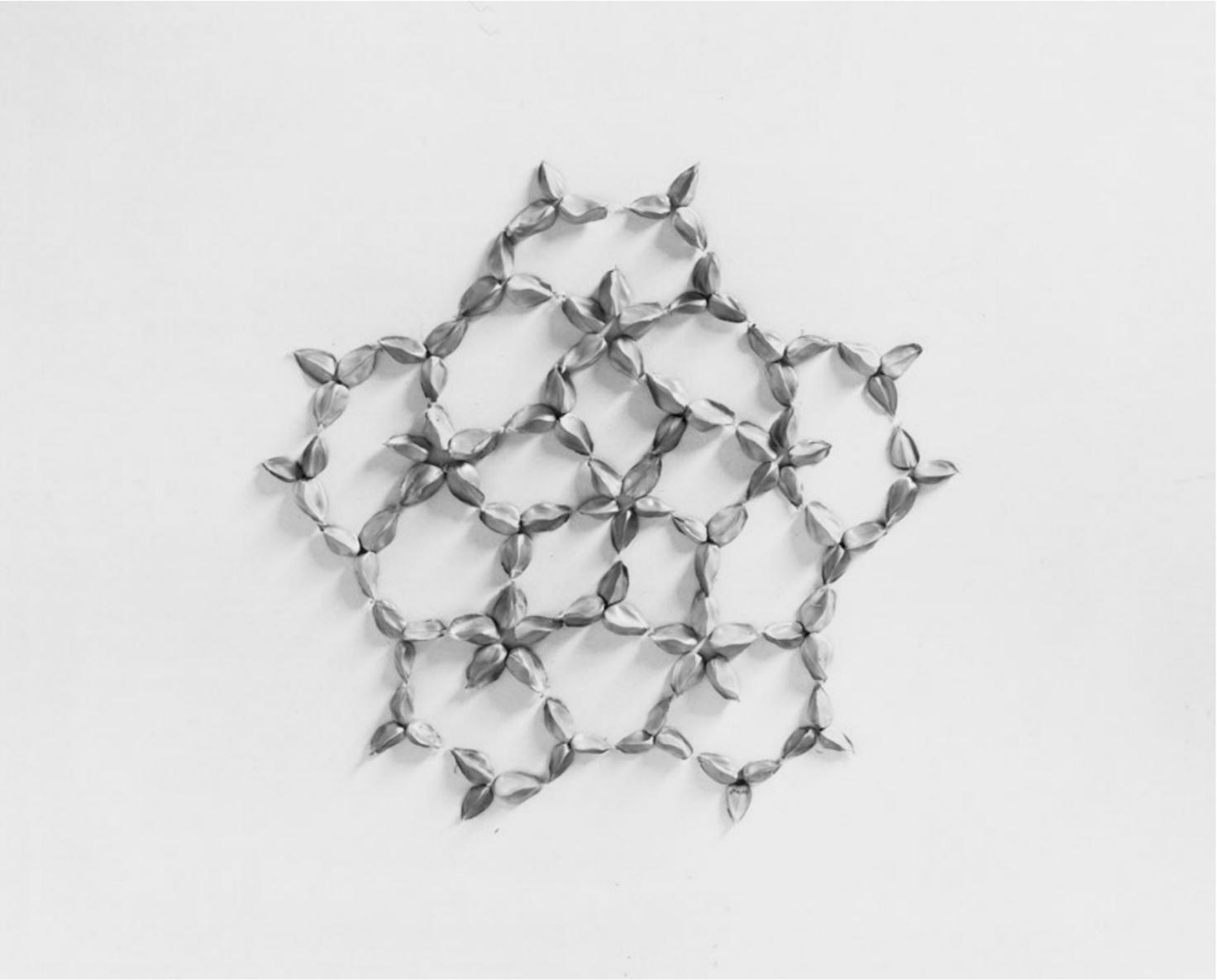
The absence of human action allows these forests to be “themselves”, instead of expressing the idea the humans have of nature. Leaving aside an aesthetic idea, I focused on some of the ele-

ments of which the forest ecosystem is composed. Dead trees, mosses, mushrooms, rocks and dense areas with young beech trees are some of the components of this system, which, interacting with each other, generate the enormous complexity characteristic of primordial forests. With the hundreds of fallen trees we witness a spectacle that is detached from the idyllic idea of Nature, the death of the oldest trees, an apparently tragic and brutal event for us, represents, together with the fall of the foliage in autumn, the raw material and the source of food for the life of the forest, which is renewed and changes in a continuous cycle.

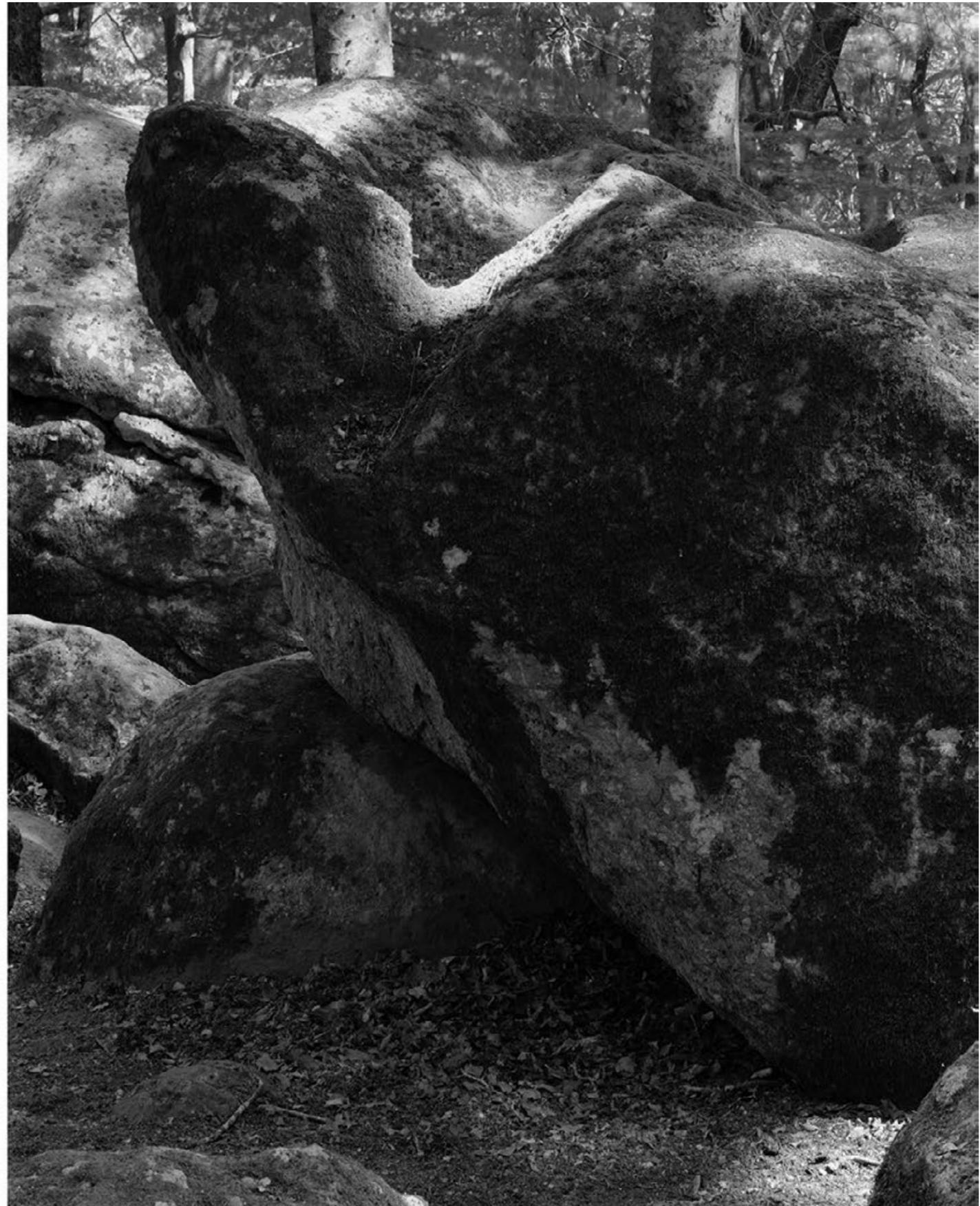
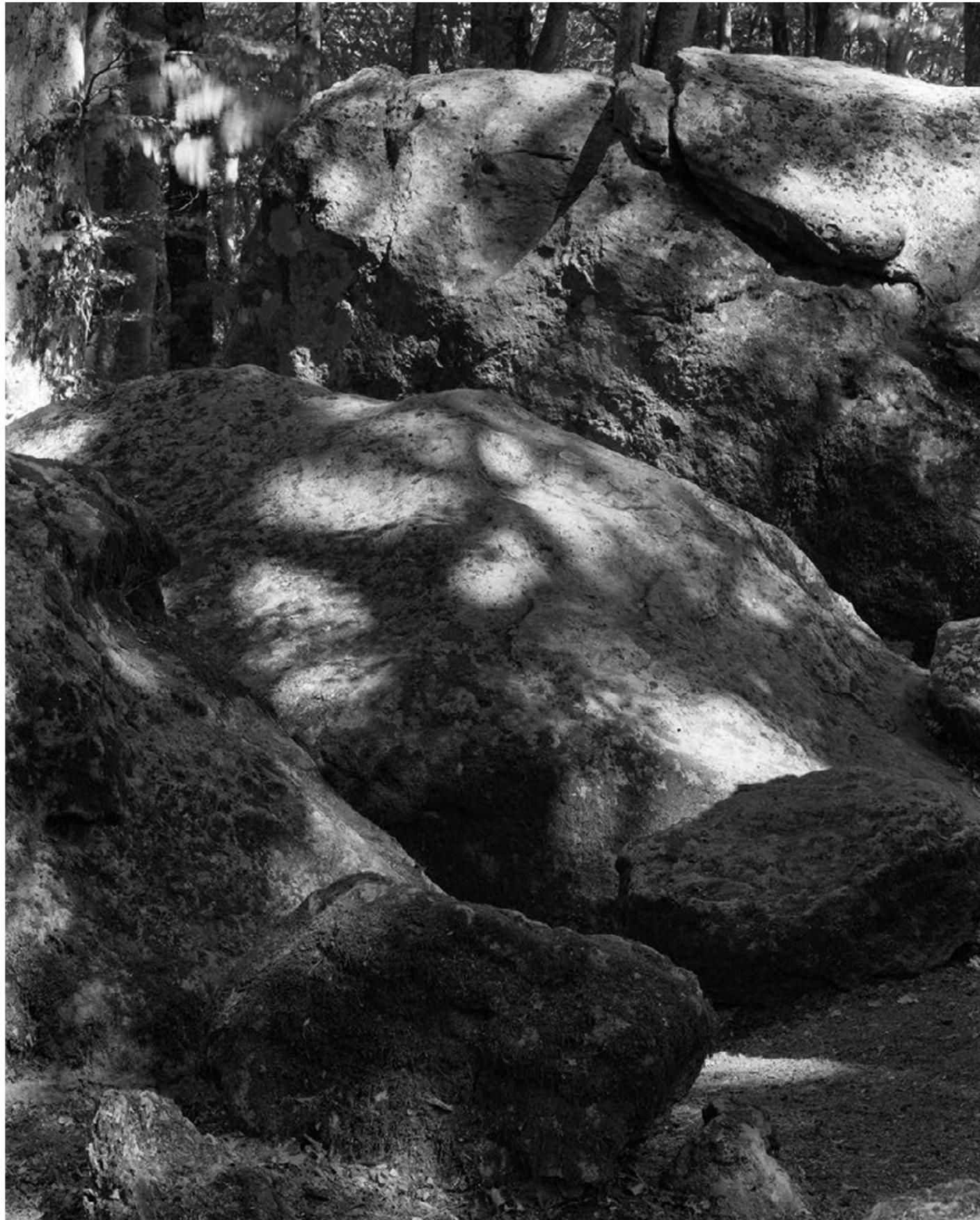








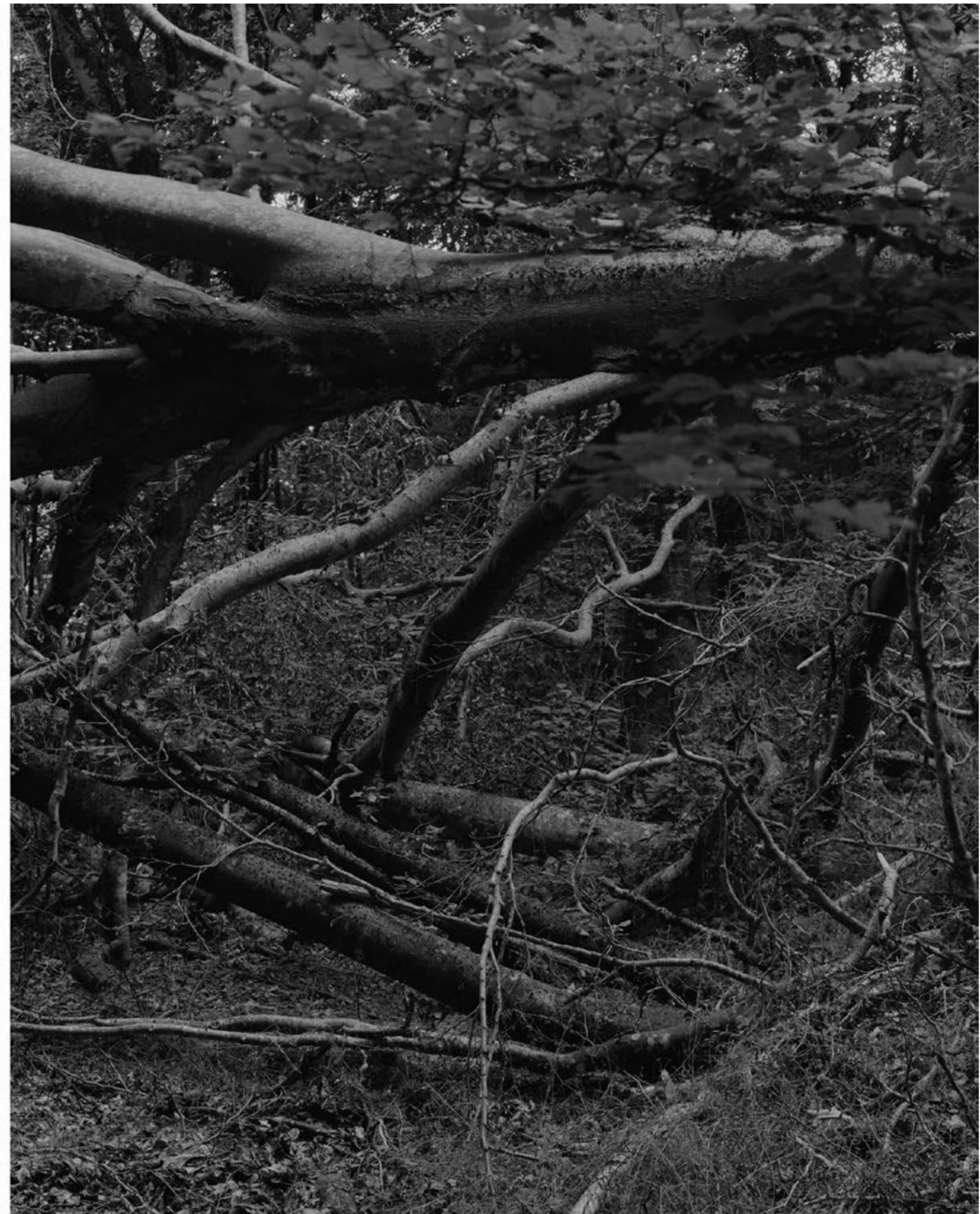


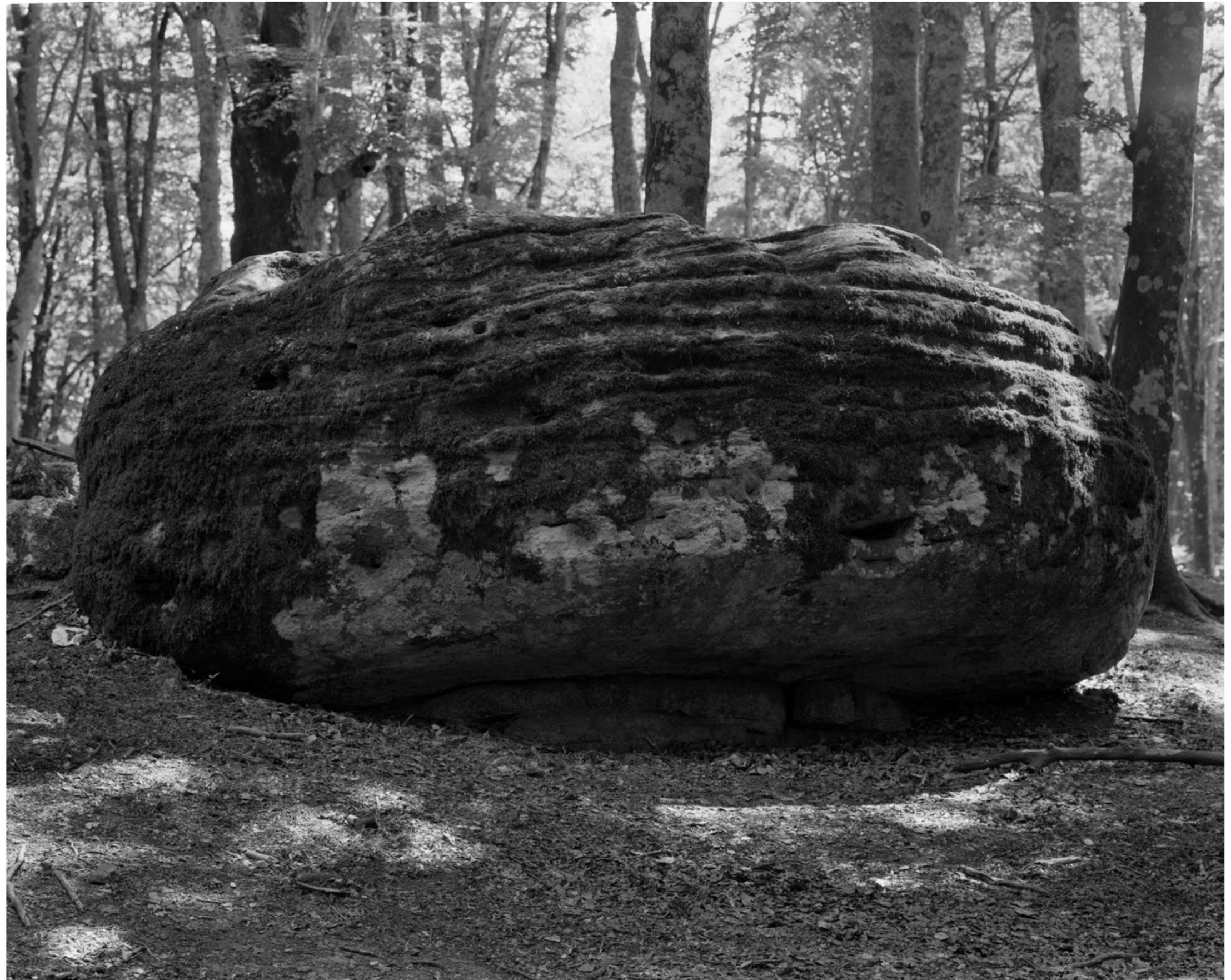


























Fabio Barile

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Graduating from FSM in Florence with a degree in photography in 2007. He started his photographic research in 2005 with a project about coastal erosion, which affects 1500 km of Italian coastline. The resulting project, "Among" aimed to investigate natural processes of the landscape. Over the last few years Barile's work has been driven by an interest in science in relation to art - both conceived as tools for a better understanding of reality. His long-term project, "An Investigation of the Laws Observable in the Composition, Dissolution and Restoration of Land," examines the manner in which geomorphology acts upon the land, serving as testimony to the vastness of geological time. The work employs photography to stimulate a deeper understanding of the landscape and our connection with the natural environment.

"At first glance, Fabio Barile's practice could be said to follow in the long tradition of Italian landscape photography which includes practitioners such as Luigi Ghirri, Guido Guidi. On closer inspection, however, the images in An Investigation hew to a tight conceptual framework that belie their simplicity, asking deeper questions about the nature of Time, and geologic time questions whose philosophical implications underpin scientific endeavor, human perception, and the unknowable forces of creative destruction at work in Nature" I. I. Naomi Itami

Selected exhibitions

2022

Fabio Barile & Domingo Milella — Le Forme del Tempo
Terme di Diocleziano, Museo Nazionale Romano, Rome, Italy

Regeneration (Group exhibition)

American Academy in Rome, Italy

Di Roccia, fuochi e avventure sotterranee (Group exhibition)

MAXXI, L'Aquila, Italy

2021

Di Roccia, fuochi e avventure sotterranee (Group exhibition)

MAXXI, Rome, Italy

Works for a Cosmic Feeling

Matèria, Rome, Italy 2020

Group exhibition, On Earth - Imaging, technology and the natural world
FOAM Museum, Amsterdam.

2019

Group exhibition, On Earth - Imaging, technology and the natural world
50th edition of the Rencontres d'Arles, in collaboration with FOAM Museum.

Fabio Barile & Domingo Milella - The shape of time

Centro Arti visive Pescheria, Pesaro, Italy

2018

Osservare la terra — a dialogue between contemporary photography and the historical archive of ICCD about photography as a tool for observation

ICCD — Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione, Rome, curated by Benedetta Cestelli Guidi

2017

An Investigation of the laws observable in the composition, dissolution and restoration of land,
Matèria, Rome

2015

Homage to James Hutton

Matèria, Rome, Italy

Publications

Fabio Barile & Domingo Milella - The shape of time, Fondazione malaspina edition, 2019

Fabio Barile & Francesco Neri, Middle-Earth a journey inside Elica, 2014

Vision And Documents Box, Documentary Platform, 2010

Diary N° 0 - Things that do not happen, 3/3, 2009