



# Gabinete de Curiosidades by Daniel Malva

## Brazilian Artist Takes Us Back In Time

Before the modern, white-cube style galleries of today, “seeing art” was a radically different – and affective – experience: collectors displayed a startling array of curiosities from all over the world, ranging from exotic animals to beautifully crafted ritual objects that had been decontextualised. The concept of curation only came about with the advent of the Enlightenment era and its principles of scientific classification. Brazilian artist [Daniel Malva](#) is now attempting to restore the sensuousness of cabinets of curiosities to contemporary art through his photographs.

Malva comes from a background in biology, and he spent four years working at the Genome Project. It was this experience, coupled with visits to natural history museums in and around the small towns of Sao Paulo, that inspired Malva to create a strange menagerie that consists of creatures neither human nor animal. He achieves his signature milky lens effect by using recycled and trash components while taking the photograph. “I wanted to create a unique texture that was not common to digital photography,” he explains. *Gabinete de Curiosidades* is a series of work that continues to evolve as he explores the role of these small museum collections and the people who care for them. “There is a great need to preserve knowledge,” he says, “We need to seek alternate ways in order to address issues of ecology and conservation, and I feel that these photographs, at least in part, help to highlight that.”

Malva’s show runs at ArtEco Gallery from 30 May to 29 June.

[ArtEco Gallery](#), 533 Old York Road, London SW18 1TG

Images courtesy of the artist and the gallery.

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