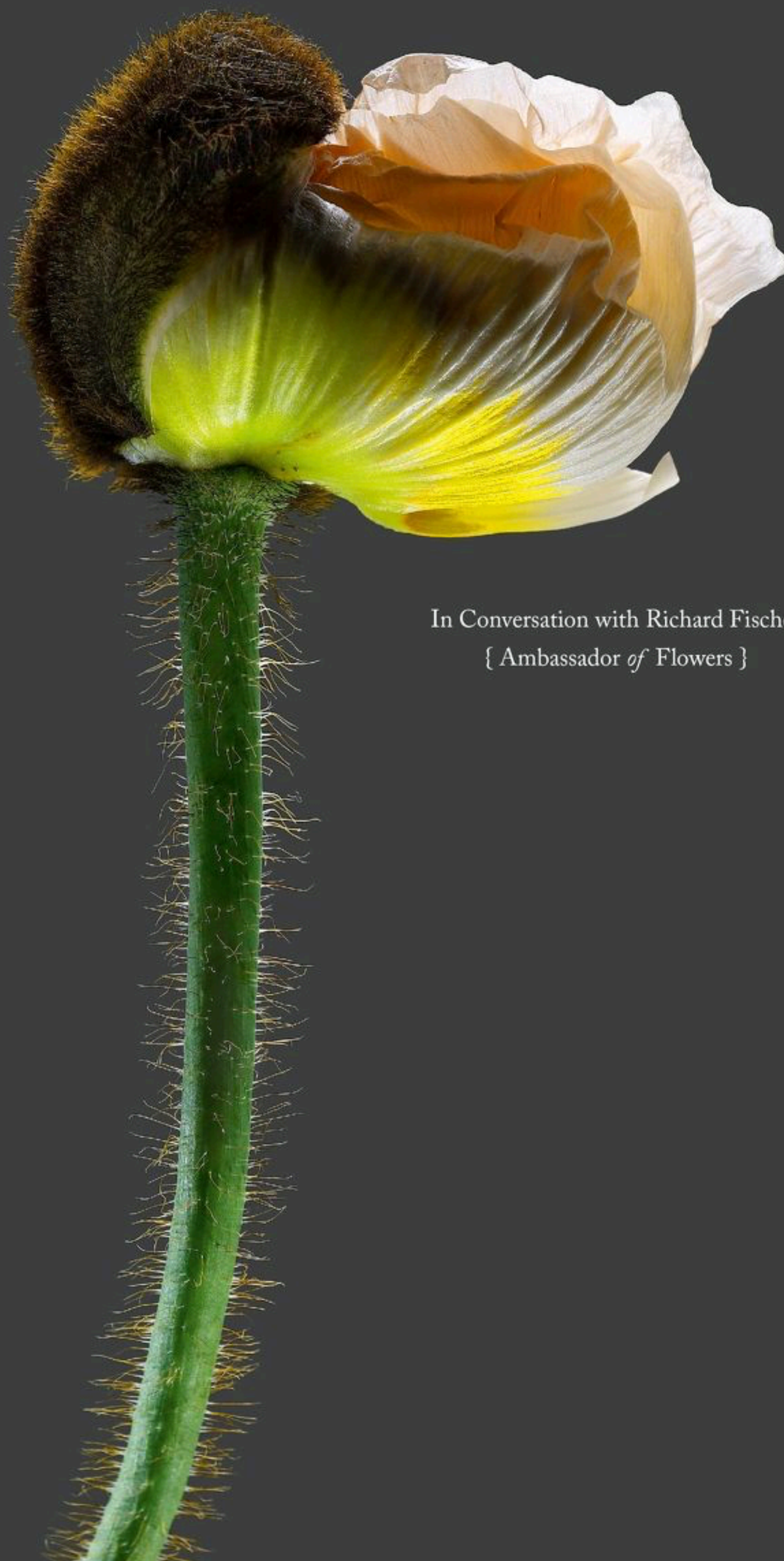




TPOTY and WPY Showcase
Journalism and the Art *of* Writing
Sloths: Life in the Slow Lane
Women Who Innovate

DIVERSE
Beauty

Papaver



In Conversation with Richard Fischer
{ Ambassador *of* Flowers }

A TRIBUTE TO
FLOWERS



A Tribute to Flowers presents the best photos accumulated during the last 15 years of flower photography by Richard Fischer. These mesmerizing depictions are the result of an unprecedented cooperation with botanists and botanical gardens around the world. Through his empathic photography, Fischer has given flowers a voice, letting them tell their very personal story. He lifts every flower onto a pedestal perfectly illuminating its uniqueness. The perspicacious *Ambassador of Flowers* has finally given these precious living things the dignity such fragile beauty deserves.

Embreea rodigasiana



What are the most innovative or intricate structures in the flower world?

Those that have proven to be intelligent enough to survive destructive enemies. Humankind though has proven to be a real killer of plants. The question is: *who is more intelligent—the one that bows or the one that conquers?* My opinion: the one that survives. Mankind has developed an arsenal of destructive measures to kill everything on this planet. Now my question: *can you find any matter of intelligence there?*

How has art been influenced by flowers?

Art and Nature, the two greatest manifestations in the environment, are so intimately related that it is impossible to think of one without the other. It is the result of the creative act that distinguishes works of art from those of nature, namely, the modeling of an original form, newly produced, and not the imitated or repeated form. Art has its immediate origin in the latest powerful incentive, of which it is the most visible expression.

Where do you advise one begin a journey of discovery and appreciation for flowers?

Remember what it was like to be a child and approach nature as you did then: with respect, fascination, and with due time for all the details. Pick a butter flower or whatever grows in front of your own door and hold it right before your nose, as close as you can see it sharply. Turn it around and look at every detail.

Nature will inspire you and remind you of what and who you are—part of a HUGE spectrum of life. Realize that nature is art without mankind's interruptions or influence. It's simply there and up to us to recognize, accept, respect and care for. It's up to us to preserve these treasures of life. For fauna, and for humankind alike. For medicine, nutrition and oxygen, and of course, for beauty. An intact world that miraculously keeps the globe revolving and us alive.

Up to fifty percent of the world's flower species could be threatened with extinction. Each year, numerous flowers disappear from the face of the Earth without ever being documented. Indeed, many of these natural beauties remain as yet unknown to humankind. Photographer Richard Fischer can be regarded as the Ambassador for Flowers. For many years, he has staged graceful and endangered floral specimens in his photo studio, capturing the uniqueness and transience of each flower. Fischer's precise, yet delicate floral compositions record the unique color, form, and texture of each flower, while signaling to the extraordinary beauty, diversity, and fragility of the natural world. Now, for the first time, Richard Fischer brings together his best pictures spanning 15 years in one flower photography book, showcasing his artwork and little-known floral exotica. Photographs are accompanied by informative and captivating texts, leading the reader through an unknown and dwindling world of flowers.

➤ *A Tribute to Flowers: Plants Under Pressure* by Richard Fischer
(Published by teNeues, 2018) www.teneues.com €40



Richard Fischer, born 1951 in Manila in the Philippines, studied art and photography in Mannheim and Munich. Since 1978, Richard has worked successfully from his own photo studio and exhibited internationally to be awarded many prestigious prizes. His prints are highly sought after and on display at private galleries around the world. To purchase a limited edition fine art print visit: richardfischer.org