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## FABULAE NATURAE

Words by Mark IZATT

Artists Lucy + Jorge Orta founded their collaborative studio, [Studio Orta](#), in 1991. Since then, they have been working on ambitious multi-media projects exploring key issues including environmental sustainability and social interaction. They began the research project *70X The Meal* in 1997, giving birth to a series of large-scale dining events across the world. *Fabulae Naturae* was the latest meal in this series, taking place at the Ermenegildo Zegna Headquarters in Milan on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015.

Curated by Maria Luisa Frisa, *Fabulae Naturae* is a multi-sensory performance teaming music, fantastical visuals and food to create an immersive whole. Chef Davide Oldani was commissioned to cook sustainable delicacies for the performance, helping Lucy + Jorge Orta deepen their artistic exploration of food and its pertinence to themes such as energy, life, taste and community.

The artists transformed the Zegna Headquarters into a paradisaical forest, inspired by Lucy Orta's exploration of the Zegna archives, a collection of some 2,200 volumes of printed fabrics housed in Trivero. Some of these fabrics were worked into the *Fabulae Naturae* space. The performance culminated with *Symphony for Absent Wildlife*, a musical performance by Lucy + Jorge Orta themselves, blending flutes and birdsong.



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SATURDAY MAY 16

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