

SEPTEMBER

In the pale moonlight

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Vulnerable, crippled, heartbroken, strong, assertive, full of life...Kahlo portrayed herself going through every emotion and in every guise.¹

In the pale moonlight², featuring ten artists, offers unusual visions of freedom through the fantastical metamorphosis of body and context. The primary subjects are female figures, and the settings range from banal domestic interiors, to landscapes, to no place in particular. Through paintings, drawings, photography, textile and performance, the artists manifest visions of therianthropy, magic and yes, leisure.

The rich territory of the imagination here is an articulation of interior worlds existing beyond the restriction of what our bodies experience as real. Rather than a separation of body and mind, fantasy operates as a fictional merging of parts that in reality separate due to trauma, or the fragmentation of how we are seen. To look at oneself, not with disapproving eyes, nor the cruelty of fragmentation, but with *limitless expanse as possibility³*, is neglected territory.

In these worlds, we find new parts, companions and perspectives. We are whole, and we are many- resting, running, eating, flying. Here, imaginary friends are ourselves. And we can give them anything- wings, a wand, a warning.

¹ Hessel, Katy, The Story of Art without Men, 2023, *Worlds Beyond Our Realm: Surrealism*, Frida Kahlo.

² Possible meaning: explore the unknown with full intention and dance with the devil if you want to

³ Hessel, Katy, The Story of Art without Men, 2023, *Worlds Beyond Our Realm: Surrealism*, Dorothea Tanning.