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### Read: Unnatural History

In Walton Ford's *Pancha Tantra*, a compilation of Audubon-style satires, tigers, snakes, panthers, and birds are painted as if caught in unbecoming arrangements. Handwritten passages from old naturalists' texts reinforce the illusion with an extra cheeky edge. In a work titled *Au Revoir Zaire*, an African gray parrot mounts his mate as she surreptitiously tries to get at a juicy fruit. In *Grand Tour*, a grinning, gaudy-nosed baboon clings to a Roman statue while a traveler after "specimens" ropes him from below. Bill Buford's introduction to the limited-edition (1,600 copies) volume characterizes Ford's works, often large enough to cover entire museum walls, as "Bruegel by way of Borges." It's natural history at its raciest. —*Kolby Yarnell*

**Pancha Tantra:** By Walton Ford, Taschen, \$1,250.

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