

03.2019

FLEEING CHAOS IN
EL SALVADOR

CARNIVAL
CELEBRATIONS

EXPLORING
BORNEO'S CAVES

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Scientists say there must be other life in the universe.
Here's how they're searching for it.



*"Something great is
around those stars."*

SARA SEAGER,
ASTROPHYSICIST

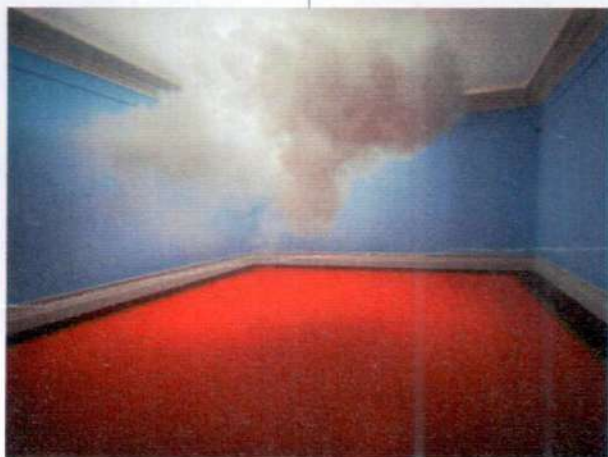
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On the Cover

The Milky Way glows above one of the 64 antennas of MeerKAT, a supersensitive telescope that scans the sky for radio signals. It's located in South Africa's Northern Cape Province.

SAREL VAN STADEN AND MARYNA COTTON; PANORAMA COMPOSED OF THREE IMAGES

PROOF



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Conjuring Clouds

With water vapor, smoke, lights, and imagination, a Dutch artist makes clouds in unexpected places—and coaxes them to pose for the camera.

PHOTO PROJECT BY BERNDNAUT SMILDE

EMBARK

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THE BIG IDEA

A Wake-Up Call on Water Quality

One-quarter of Americans drink water from systems that aren't safe.

BY RHEA SUH

GENIUS

Safer. Cheaper. Greener.

Engineer Leslie Dewan wants to reinvent nuclear energy.

BY RACHEL HARTIGAN SHEA



ALSO

Transparent Butterflies
A Mighty New Dinosaur

EXPLORE



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DECODER

Evolved to Crack

Scientists are learning more about how elephants get the creases in their skin and why those crevices are so important to them.

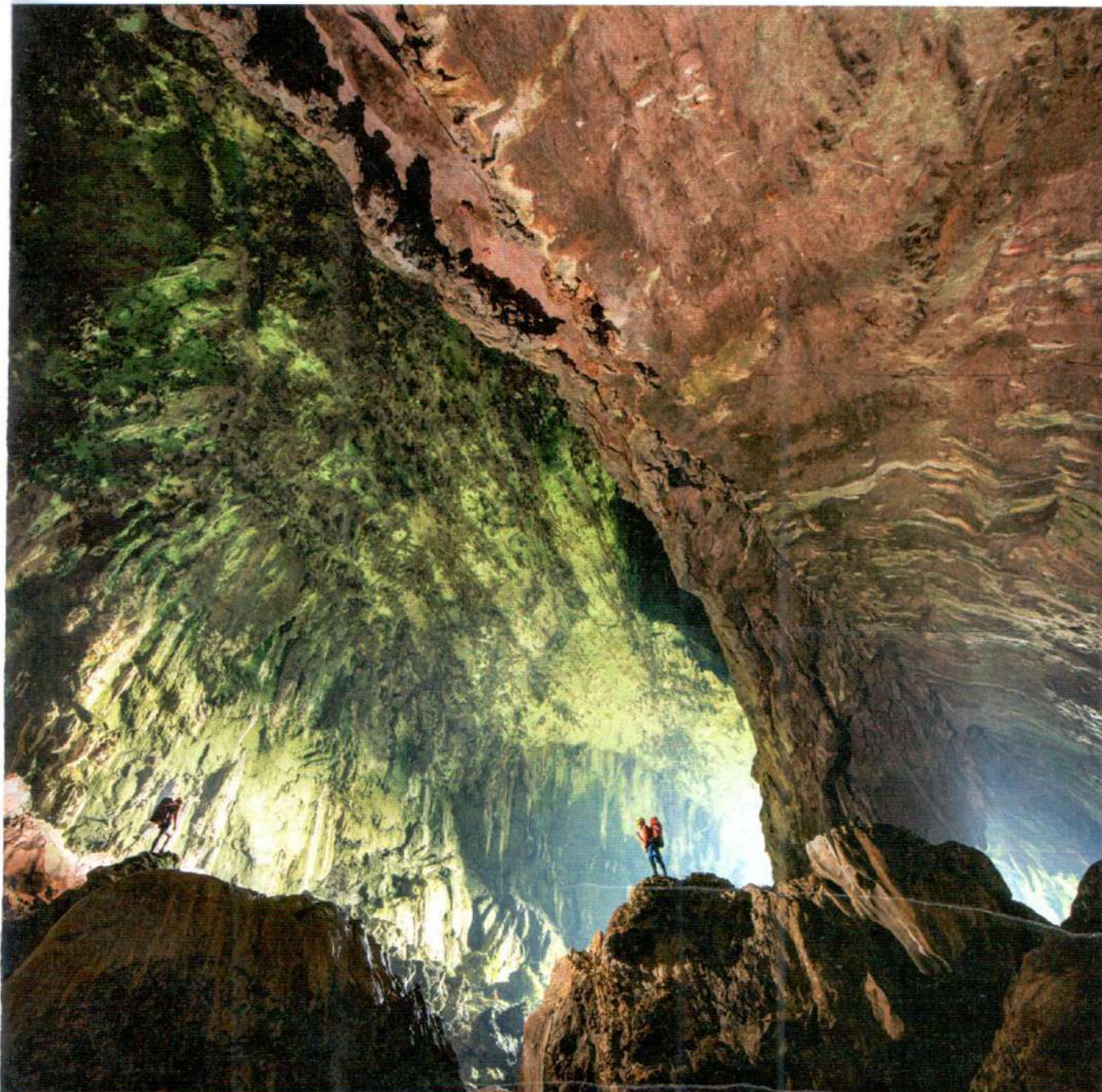
BY MONICA SERRANO

THROUGH THE LENS

Strange Reflections

During the annual flood season in Venice, buildings appear as distorted images on the water. Within those reflections, a photographer finds bizarre creatures—and also solace.

BY JODI COBB



FEATURES

Who's Out There?

The big existential question is no longer, Is there life beyond Earth? It's a pretty sure bet there is.

The question now is, How do we find who—or what—is alive out there? And we are getting really close to answering it.

BY JAMIE SHREEVE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY SPENCER LOWELL
ART BY DANA BERRY

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No Way Out

Criminal gangs have fractured El Salvador.

BY JASON MOTLAGH
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MOISES SAMAN AND ADAM FERGUSON

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▲ Borneo's Vast Underworld

Malaysia's Mulu caves boast chambers that are millions of years old.

BY NEIL SHEA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY

CARSTEN PETER P. 100

Treehoppers

These mini-monsters are masters of disguise.

BY DOUGLAS MAIN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAVIER AZNAR GONZÁLEZ DE RUEDA

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Rituals of Rebellion

The Americas' carnivals honor revelers' roots.

BY JACQUELINE CHARLES
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLES FRÉGER

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