Created in January, 2020 Dana Smith's first book, for the new decade, titled *The Day Off*, is an homage to philosopher Avital Ronell. The book's story takes the form of a series of photo collages with a text/poem which grew from fragments of a lecture delivered by Avital that was posted on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHnAK3K7kzw) with the following description:

Avital Ronell discusses the concepts of forgiveness, drugs, ontic, ontological, friendship, blush, nausea, otherness, alterity, referring to Heidegger, Holderlin, Levinas, Susan Sontag, Lyotard, Kleist, Nietzsche, Wagner, Derrida, Lacoue-Labarthe, Alfred Hitchcock, Hegel. Free public open lecture for the students and faculty of the European Graduate School EGS Media and Communication Studies Department Program in 2012. EGS, Saas-Fee, Switzerland, Europe, Avital Ronell 2012.

## As Avital says in the video:

"And so we may want to consider jamming on 'a day off' and what that means. Off the calendar, off the charts, what can happen? A lot of horror films, of course, locate their action on vacations, and so, something opens up. There's a kind of ontological rip, and I want to just plunge into the fissuring rip view of the day off, it's dangers, it's promise, it's enticements, and seductions. And what happens to time? Does time stall, does time actually shift registers and clocks?"

Dana's imagery is a tense juxtaposition of photos taken on vacation in Maui along with appropriated, and digitally decomposed images of oil spill disasters.



## THE DAY OFF









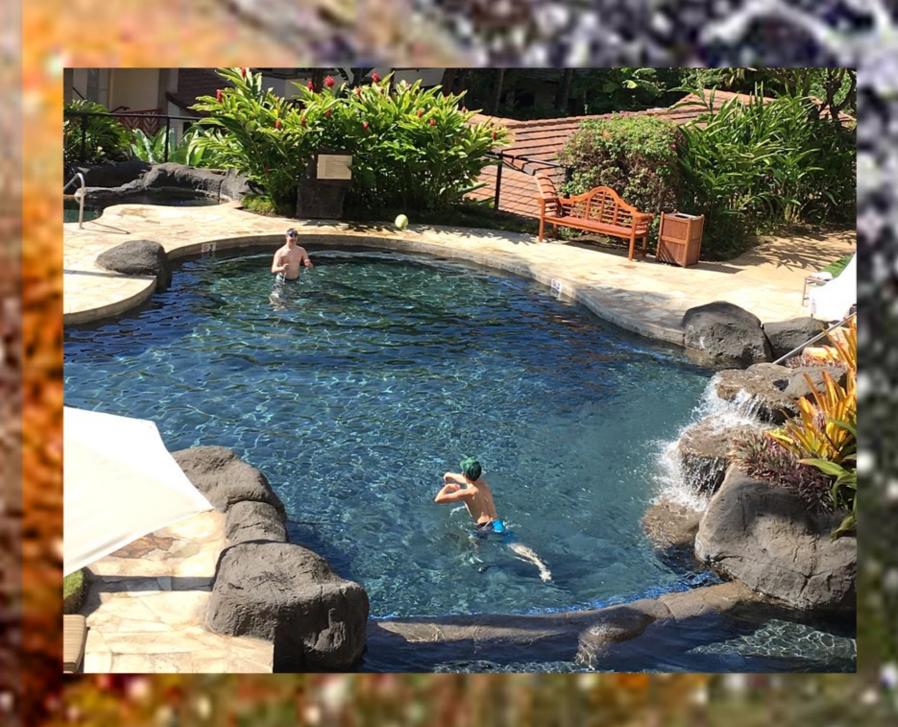








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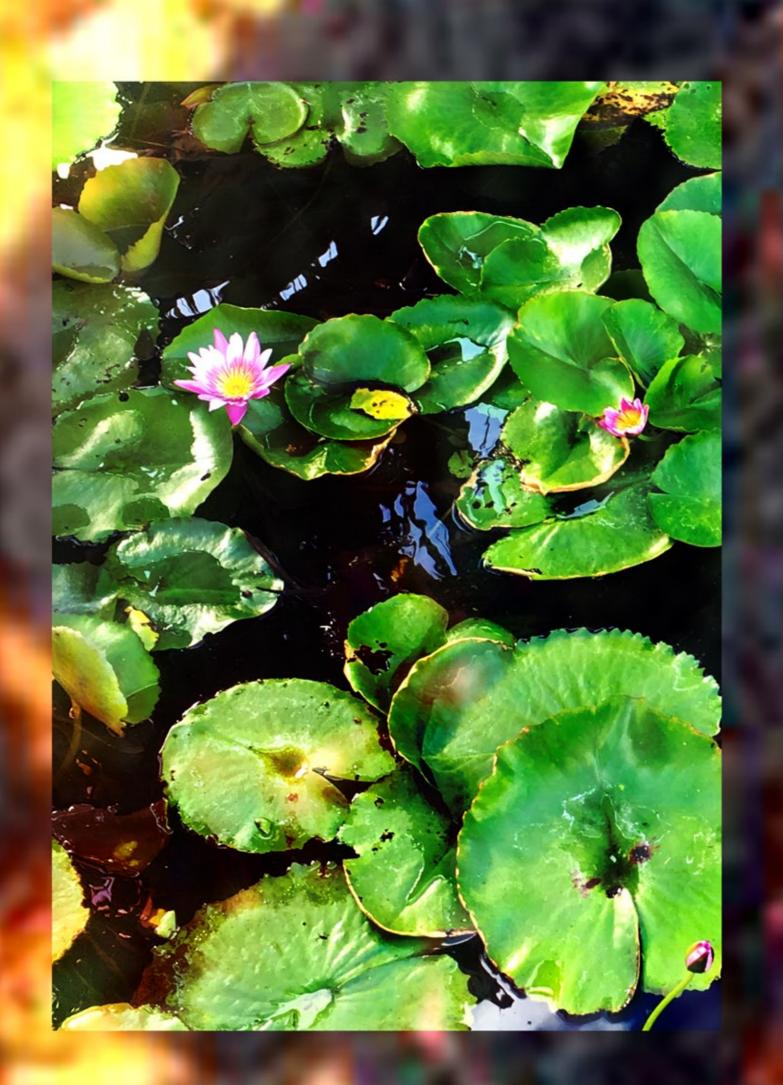




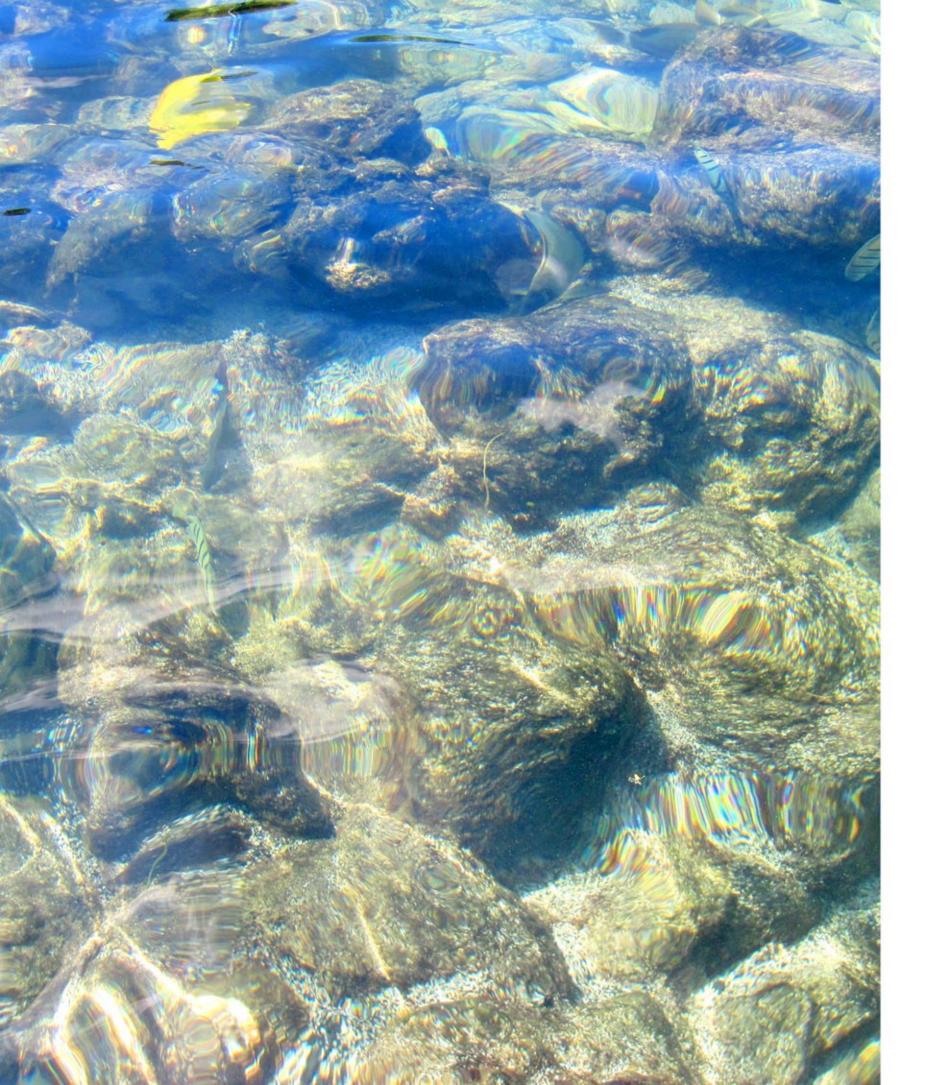












## THE DAY OFF

PHOTO COLLAGE AND POETRY BY DANA SMITH

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