

JP TERLIZZI: THE GOOD DISHES

HOUSTON (JULY 24, 2020) – Foto Relevance is thrilled to announce JP Terlizzi for a solo exhibition of his acclaimed series *The Good Dishes*. Filled with brilliant color, endless floral patterns, and elegantly composed fruits and vegetables, Terlizzi’s scrumptious still life works redefine traditional still life photography and offer a contemporary update to beloved tableware heirlooms. *The Good Dishes* will be on view at Foto Relevance from August 15th through September 25th, 2020.



The Good Dishes is based on a practice both personal to Terlizzi and ubiquitous among families everywhere: the act of sitting down to a meal with a set of tableware reserved only for special occasions. Throughout Terlizzi’s childhood, his mother’s use of the ‘good dishes’ – dishes “that only she handled, only she washed, and only she hand-dried” – often meant that the priest was coming over for dinner. Meals served on those particular porcelain pieces were not just about the food being consumed, but were also about the social rituals and etiquette underlying the particular moment.

In this manner, *The Good Dishes* further solidifies the inextricable relationship between food and memory. Reflecting on the series’ inception, Terlizzi notes how, when sorting through the possessions of loved ones who have passed, the “family’s fine china [...] was always given to the person that most cherished its memory and sentimental value.” In the interest of preserving such an intergenerational sense of community, the ornate plates, teacups, and other vessels that appear in the series are all borrowed from Terlizzi’s own network of family and friends. This network, in turn, has yielded an impressive variety of dish design patterns – a number of which date as far back as the 19th century.

Another aspect of *The Good Dishes* worth noting is Terlizzi’s use of digital interventions alongside his formal, stylized still life techniques. Riffing off of the coloration and motifs presented on the stacks of dishes being photographed, the seamless backgrounds seen in each piece are produced by the artist entirely in Photoshop. Sliced apples, spiraled citrus

peels, and light-glossed cherries sit ever so regally atop Terlizzi's effortless fabrications – quite the delicious feast for the eyes.

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JP Terlizzi (American, b. 1962) is a New York City photographer whose contemporary practice explores themes of memory, relationship, and identity. His images are rooted in the personal and heavily influenced around the notions of home, legacy, and family. He is curious how the past relates and intersects with the present and how that impacts and shapes one's identity.

Terlizzi's work has been exhibited widely in galleries and museums nationally, including shows at The Center for Fine Art Photography, Vicki Myhren Gallery at the University of Denver, The Griffin Museum, Tilt Gallery, Panopticon Gallery, Candela Gallery, The Los Angeles Center of Photography, University Gallery at Cal Poly, and The Berlin Foto Biennale, Berlin, Germany, among others. His solo exhibits include shows at Foto Relevance Gallery (August, 2020) The Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts, Cameraworks Gallery (Portland, OR) and Soho Photo Gallery (New York, NY). His work has been featured in PDN, Shots Magazine, Yogurt Magazine (Italy), Mono Chroma Magazine, Photo Emphasis, All About Photo, L'oeil de la Photographie, The Photo Review, F-Stop and Abridged Magazine (Ireland). Terlizzi holds a BFA in Communication Design at Kutztown University of PA, and has studied photography at both the International Center of Photography in New York and Maine Media College in Rockport, ME.

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Since 2016, Foto Relevance cofounders Geoffrey C. Koslov and Bryn Larsen have focused on the exhibition and acquisition of museum-quality, contemporary fine art photography and photography-based work. Foto Relevance is dedicated to providing a platform for an innovative selection of American and international photographic artists pushing the boundaries of photography. In addition to promoting the work of artists, Foto Relevance provides guidance, educating individual collectors and corporations in the acquisition and sale of art. Foto Relevance is a member of the Houston Art Gallery Association (HAGA). The gallery is located in the historic Museum District in Houston, Texas in close proximity to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Menil Collection, and the Houston Center for Photography.

Foto Relevance is currently open by appointment at 4411 Montrose Boulevard, Suite C. This is subject to change as we stay current with local COVID-related advisories. Groups are limited to five, with masks mandatory for all guests and staff. Please call (713) 505-1499 or email info@fotorelevance.com to schedule a time.