

LETITIA HUCKABY: *BEAUTIFUL BLACKNESS*



HOUSTON (FEB 17, 2020) – Foto Relevance is excited to announce Letitia Huckaby for *Beautiful Blackness*, a solo exhibition opening from 6 to 8 pm on the evening of March 6th in conjunction with the Houston-wide FotoFest 2020 Biennial: *AFRICAN COSMOLOGIES—Photography, Time, and the Other*. In dialogue with the Biennial’s theme, Huckaby’s *Beautiful Blackness* taps deep into the historical entanglements surrounding African American life in the rural American South.

Drawn from multiple portfolios of Huckaby’s work, *Beautiful Blackness* is filled with documentary-style imagery of the South: lush landscapes, domestic interiors and exteriors, and ethereal figurative silhouettes. The photographs are presented in a distinctive material dimension, framed in embroidery hoops, reproduced on patterned flour sacks, and sewn into patchwork quilts.

Together, the works in *Beautiful Blackness* combine to depict a people and an unfulfilled legacy, yielding a visual elegy for a lost promised land. Rooted in each piece is a concern with the past, punctuated in particular by General William Sherman’s unkept, post-Civil War promise of forty acres and a mule, the migration of Exodusters, and the establishment of Freedmen’s towns throughout the region. The use of heirloom fabrics transforms Huckaby’s works into objects that seem poised to be passed down from one generation to the next.

Letitia Huckaby has a degree in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma, a BFA from the Art Institute of Boston in photography and her Master’s degree from the University of North Texas in Denton. Ms. Huckaby has been blessed to exhibit as an emerging artist at Phillips

New York, the Tyler Museum of Art, The Studio School of Harlem, Renaissance Fine Art in Harlem curated by Deborah Willis, PhD, The McKenna Museum in New Orleans, the Camden Palace Hotel in Cork City, Ireland, and the Texas Biennial at Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum. Her work is included in several prestigious collections, including the Library of Congress, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, the Brandywine Workshop in Philadelphia, and the Samella Lewis Contemporary Art Collection at Scripps College in Claremont, California. Ms. Huckaby is a featured artist in *MAP2020: The Further We Roll, The More We Gain* at the Amon Carter Museum and *State of the Art 2020* at The Momentary and Crystal Bridges Museum, both opening in spring 2020.

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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 open at 4411 Montrose Boulevard, Suite C on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, Saturdays from 10:30 am - 5:00 pm, or by appointment. The gallery can be reached at (713) 505 1499.