

## Foto Relevance To Feature Julia McLaurin for “Hail To The Chief!”

*A President’s Day-Inspired Exhibition in Irreverent Honor of Our Nation’s Leaders*

HOUSTON (JAN. 18, 2019) – Foto Relevance is pleased to present “Hail To The Chief!”, an inventive solo exhibition in celebration of President’s Day by Houston-based photographer Julia McLaurin. “Hail To The Chief!” will showcase McLaurin’s digitally collaged portraits of all forty-five U.S. presidents, based on unique facts about each politician’s life. By adding fantastical imagery to traditional portrait photographs, McLaurin explores our nation’s leaders through an irreverent lens that enchants and delights—a timely project, in light of today’s widespread political disillusionment.



The exhibition will run from February 22nd to March 22nd, with an opening reception on February 22nd from 6 to 8 pm. The artist will be in attendance at the reception as well as for an artist talk, also at Foto Relevance, on February 23rd from 10 to 11 am.

“Hail To The Chief!” reinterprets the formal, idealistic portraits of the men at the helm of our nation, peeling off their gloss and making them accessible to the everyday viewer. Based on research into the presidents, their behavior and actions, and the events that transpired during their respective tenures, McLaurin’s work offers viewers the chance to evaluate our leaders and our history, and to reflect on where the institution of the presidency may take us.

Julia McLaurin (b. 1981) grew up in Houston, TX to Polish immigrant parents, caught between a family entrenched in old-world religious beliefs and her own contemporary upbringing in the U.S. A lifelong student at the Glassell School of Art, McLaurin has engaged with a variety of mediums such as printmaking, sculpture, and, now, photography. In 2010, McLaurin opened the Syrenka (“mermaid” in Polish, and the symbol for Warsaw) Photography Studio with her sisters. She is currently a full-time artist experimenting with photo-based processes such as photomontage, enhanced by her early training in 4-color printing techniques.

Foto Relevance represents leading and emerging contemporary photographic artists and provides



contemporary art consulting. Foto Relevance is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, or by appointment. For further inquiries, please contact Bryn Larsen at 832.266.8491/[bryn@fotorelevance.com](mailto:bryn@fotorelevance.com), or Geoffrey Koslov at 281.989.4356/[geoffrey@fotorelevance.com](mailto:geoffrey@fotorelevance.com).