

**HOUSTON (March 11, 2022)** – Foto Relevance announced today that it will be exhibiting multimedia artist Alia Ali at the upcoming 2022 edition of EXPO CHICAGO.

Bryn Larsen of Foto Relevance said: “We are thrilled to be presenting the work of Alia Ali, who has received international acclaim for her photographic and multimedia work that was recently described by James Steward, Director of the Princeton University Art Museum, as “politically potent and materially beautiful.” Ali’s work dives headfirst into the intricate and often irreconcilable political, historical, and economic legacies of textiles. Considering everything from the expansive global trade routes traveled by certain fabrics, to the classification and nomenclature of particular prints, to the communicative potential of a pattern’s symbolism, Ali guides viewers into a conversation about colonialism, cultural cross-pollination, and borders that simultaneously unite and divide people.”

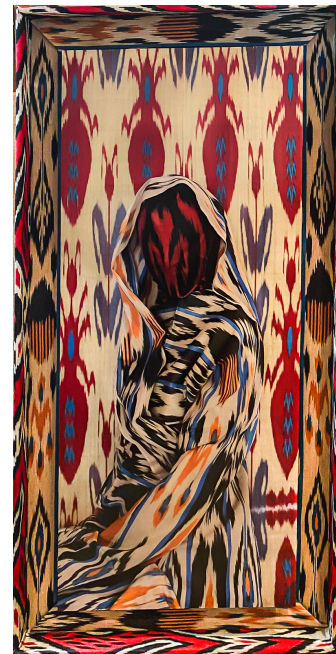
Ali’s work has been exhibited around the world including Paris, Frankfurt, Los Angeles, Marrakech, Dubai, and solo shows at the New Orleans Museum of Art in Louisiana and the Benton Museum of Art California. In two weeks she will be revealing her first publicly commissioned artwork supported by the Andrew Mellon Foundation at the Arab American National Museum, Detroit, and will also be presenting her work in London, Paris and Venice in the next 4 months. Her work is also in numerous private collections and public institutions including the British Museum in London and the Princeton University Art Museum in New Jersey.



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In December 2021 at Art Basel in Miami, Ali was announced as an Artsy Vanguard Artist. This prestigious annual list of 20 emerging artists identifies “The most influential talents shaping the future of contemporary art practice.” Her striking studio portraits have also recently featured in the Financial Times, Le Monde, Art Review, Vogue, Elle and Hyperallergic.

Foto Relevance will be exhibiting works from Alia Ali’s WARP and FLOW series, as well as launching never before seen works from her brand-new LIBERTY series. Step through a Yemeni-Futurist portal of pattern from April 7 - 10, 2022 at Navy Pier.

**Baya Simons, The Guardian:**

*"She reveals how photography can cut through language to communicate the unsayable."*

**Jad Dahshan, Hyperallergic:**

*"From her earliest works, Ali has confronted colonial histories, challenged viewers' preconceived racial and gendered biases, and put pressure on borders both physical and conceptual."*

**Kaitlyn Miller, Houstonia Magazine:**

*"If language was something that went beyond words... multimedia artist Alia Ali has been aware of [this] her entire life. And it's one she's brought to Houston in Cartographies of Pattern, a photography exhibit that explores the intriguing ability textiles have both to unite and divide us in a way that defies words."*

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

Alia Ali (Arabic: عاليه علي) is an award-winning Yemeni-Bosnian-US multi-media global artist who has traveled to sixty-seven countries, lived in and between seven, and grown up among five languages. Her practice explores and rescinds accepted cultural binaries, challenges culturally sanctioned oppression, and confronts the dualistic barriers of conflicted notions of gender, politics, media, and citizenship. Her migrations have led her to process the world through interactive experiences and the belief that the damage of translation and interpretation of written language has disserved particular communities, resulting in the threat of their exclusion, rather than a means of understanding. Through her practice, Ali critiques linguistics and inherited political structures and narratives, while simultaneously attempting to counter the polarization and miscommunication that imperils communities across the world, encouraging viewers to confront their own prejudices. Working between language, photography, video, textile, and installation, Ali's work addresses the politicization of the body, histories of colonization, imperialism, sexism, and racism through projects that take pattern and textile as their primary motif.

A graduate of Wellesley College and the California Institute of the Arts, Ali lives and works in and between Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Marrakech, and recently concluded a residency at the Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program (RAiR) in New Mexico.

**ABOUT FOTO RELEVANCE:**

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 for walk-in hours Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 am - 5 pm, or by appointment. This is subject to change as we stay current with local COVID-related advisories. Please call (713) 505-1499 or email [info@fotorelevance.com](mailto:info@fotorelevance.com) for press and other inquiries.