

**HOUSTON (JUNE 17, 2022)** — Foto Relevance is pleased to present *Restless Symmetries: Barbara Strigel and Kelda Van Patten*. This show marks the gallery's debut exhibition of works by each artist, selected from portfolio reviews at PhotoLucida 2022. *Restless Symmetries* will be on view at Foto Relevance from July 16th through September 3rd, 2022.

Barbara Strigel's work investigates architecture as the visual language of a city, not separate from its inhabitants, but a part of the same constellation. Her digital collages, created with her photographs, drawings, and physically torn and layered paper, become constructed architectural spaces reaching for a sense of visual unity. These fragmentary moments are resonant, sensory perceptions that invite connection to space. Strigel's work explores both the physicality of the city as well as the people who navigate it, the balance of connection and separation within the urban space.

Kelda Van Patten's constructed photographs involve a variety of physical and digital processes to occupy liminal spaces between artifice and truth, imagination and the real, and mimesis and the origin. Her still life images reference the melancholic curiosities of kitsch, as well as *Memento Mori* and *Vanitas*, visual symbolism developed in 17th-century Dutch paintings. The colors and forms in Van Patten's work frequently relate to the stereotypically feminine, which she subverts through disruption, referencing expressions of loss. The images do not find their final form after being photographed - they are cut, taped to the wall, rephotographed, and digitally transformed endlessly. Van Patten's process embodies cycles of change: perpetually unfolding, and in a permanent state of suspense. Through these iterations, she both celebrates and questions relationships between the natural world and the artificial kingdom of kitsch.



Barbara Strigel, *A Field is a Passage*, 2022



Kelda Van Patten, *More elegantly muscular than delicate (after Strange Plants III)*, 2021

### **ABOUT BARBARA STRIGEL:**

Barbara Strigel is a photographer, collage artist and bookmaker living and working in Vancouver, British Columbia. She was born in Philadelphia and studied photography and printmaking at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. For over 20 years she taught photography, pottery and graphic design in Seattle where she also advised a literary magazine. Her collages, photographs and handmade books have been shown in both Canada and the United States. Her work has been published in Diffusion Annual, PDN, Don't Take Pictures, Photo Ed and Book Arts Du Livre and Contemporary Collage Magazine. In 2019, she was recognized in the Top 50 in Photo-Lucida's Critical Mass. In 2022, she was recognized as a Finalist in LensCulture's Fine Art Photography Awards.

### **ABOUT KELDA VAN PATTEN:**

Kelda Van Patten is a visual artist and art educator residing in Portland, Oregon. Kelda's photographs create disorienting pictorial spaces that merge photography with the cut-out, collage, and painting. Kelda is a recipient of the Regional Arts and Culture Council's Make Grant (2021), in the top 200 for Photolucida's critical mass, and she has held residencies at NES (Iceland) and the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology (Oregon). Her work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions including Blue Sky Gallery, Carnation Contemporary, and Well Well Projects (Portland, Oregon), Southern Exposure (San Francisco), the Cuernavaca Museum of Art (Mexico), and Platform Gallery (Seattle). Kelda's work has been featured in several online and print publications including Fraction Magazine, the.waiting.room.gallery, In the In-Between, and Platform Gallery. She holds an MFA in Craft and Material Studies from Oregon College of Art and Craft and Pacific Northwest College of Art, an MAT in art education from Lewis and Clark College, and a BFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute. Kelda teaches visual art at da Vinci Arts Middle School and Portland State University.

### **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.