

HOUSTON (JANUARY 30, 2024) — Koslov Larsen (formerly Foto Relevance) is pleased to present *Mujeres: The Beat of a Wing*, a solo show by gallery artist Delphine Blast. This show is presented in association with the 2024 FotoFest Biennial: *Critical Geography*, which reexamines traditional Western and historical understandings of geography while investigating shifting and emerging relationships with the land. *Mujeres: The Beat of a Wing* combines three acclaimed series: *Flowers of the Isthmus*, *Cholitas*, and *Dancing Flare*. Paying tribute to the indigenous women of Latin America, Blast's work follows the Zapotec women of Tehuantepec, the Bolivian cholitas of the plains of the Altiplano, and the bright and colorful spirit of the folk ballet dancers of Querétaro, Mexico.

In *Flowers of the Isthmus*, the traditional dress of the Zapotec women is paired alongside bright backgrounds and oil cloth frames. The series celebrates the intricate and diverse ways in which traditional garments are worn by a new generation of women dedicated to proudly preserving their histories and cultural artifacts. Vibrant and almost sculptural, the intricate garments have inspired many artists over the years, including Frida Kahlo.

The *Cholitas* series follows the style of dress worn by the indigenous Aymara peoples of modern-day Bolivia. Posed in front of traditional fabrications, the rounded compositions encase and bring attention to the movement qualities of the dresses and shawls. Blast emphasizes an intent to “highlight the cholitas' very special outfits, inspired by Andean traditions, but above all to reveal their femininity, elegance, and dignity.”

In the series *Dancing Flare*, the dancers of Querétaro, Mexico move energetically and dizzyingly throughout the images. Accentuated by longer exposures, the layered, spinning dresses linger in the air as new movements find their way into the images. Blast captures the spirit and body intertwining, celebrating the longevity of female artistic traditions in dance and costume.

Mujeres: The Beat of a Wing will be on view at Koslov Larsen from March 8 – April 13, 2024.



Left: *Flowers of the Isthmus*, 2020; Right: *Cholitas #1, Leslie*, 2016



In July 2023, Geoffrey Koslov traveled to the south of France to participate in the gallery's first opportunity to review portfolios at the Rencontres d'Arles – founded in 1970, the festival has since earned a worldwide reputation as a springboard for photographic and contemporary creative talents. Blast is one of the standout international artists Koslov identified to bring to the United States to be shown for the first time in Houston.

"Delphine Blast's work resonated with us, and we want to expand her audience and to showcase her work throughout the upcoming 2024 FotoFest Biennial: Critical Geography" commented Koslov. "We are delighted to bring Delphine Blast's distinctive works to Houston," Larsen added. "Stunning and dynamic."

Delphine Blast is a French artist currently based in Paris. Portraiture occupies a central place in her photography-based work. Blast works on various social issues with a focus on women's roles and their emancipation in changing societies. After working for many years in Latin America, she has recently expanded her practice to explore the legacies of cultural heritage across Africa. Over the years, Blast has turned toward more dimensional creations, integrating visual tools beyond straight photography into her work, thus exploring different forms of expression and life.

Koslov Larsen is delighted to introduce Blast's work in Houston as programming for the 2024 FotoFest Biennial: *Critical Geography*, which "explores how space, place, and communities are influenced by social, economic, and political forces." Blast's work highlights the cultural traditions of costuming and dance in indigenous America, passed down and proudly donned by the women of these communities in an act of resilience and independence against the political regimes which have historically sought to erase them.

Blast's work has won numerous awards and has been published in various magazines in France and internationally (such as National Geographic, Geo, and Marie-Claire). She is a member of Women Photograph, a non-profit that launched in 2017 to elevate the voices of women and nonbinary visual journalists. Her latest project, *Flowers of the Isthmus*, focuses on the indigenous community of Zapotec women in Mexico. This series has been shortlisted at the Sony Awards, exhibited in many festivals, and the eponymous book won the IPA Photo Book of the Year. Other bodies of work include *Cholitas*, an exploration of the traditional dress of the indigenous women of Bolivia, and *Dancing Flare*, a dynamic look at the mesmerizing rhythms and costuming of traditional Mexican dance. Blast's work is a celebration of identity, womanhood, and female liberation.

ABOUT KOSLOV LARSEN:

Since 2016, Koslov Larsen (formerly 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. Joined by Zan Zeller in 2019 who currently leads the program as Assistant Director, Koslov Larsen 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, Koslov Larsen provides guidance, educating individual collectors and corporations in the acquisition and sale of art. Koslov Larsen is a member of the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD) and 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.

Koslov Larsen is currently open for walk-in hours Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 am - 5 pm, or by appointment. Please call (713) 505-1499 or email info@koslovlarsen.gallery for press and other inquiries.