



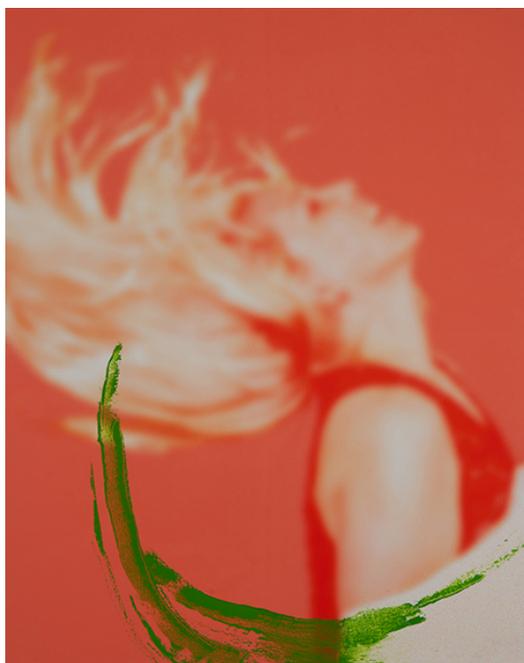
**For Immediate Release – January 21, 2019**

**Obscura Gallery Presents**

**LOUVIERE+VANESSA : RETRO-ACTIVE**

*A retrospective exhibition of the photo-based artist duo Louviere+Vanessa, including past and current work.*

**Opening Reception: Friday, March 1, 5-7pm**  
**Exhibition is on view March 1 - April 20, 2019**



LOUVIERE+VANESSA, *Bonne Soeur de Louviere*, 2018, 34 x 24", mixed media, unique edition.

Obscura Gallery presents a solo exhibition with the New Orleans prolific duo Louviere+Vanessa, including past and current work from their various series over the last 15 years. Louviere+Vanessa's style exudes a Southern Gothic pairing of transgression and beauty through mystery, dark humor, and the supernatural, often involving the figurative use of protagonists such as humans and animals alluding to literature and philosophy. The artists effectively combine the mediums and nuances of film, photography, painting, printmaking, and even music, resulting in mixed media works that use gold and silver leaf, resin, varnish, wax, charcoal, various other mediums, as well as ways of recording the visual through sound, and finishing many of the pieces with handmade frames.

The exhibition opens with a reception on Friday, March 1, 2019 from 5-7pm at Obscura Gallery, 1405 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico. The exhibition is on view through April 20, 2019.

1405 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 [info@obscuragallery.net](mailto:info@obscuragallery.net)

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**A SELECTION OF THE VARIOUS SERIES IN THE EXHIBITION INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

**Chloroform**

This series uses the human figure as the protagonist addressing the symbiotic relationship of people's relationship to the environment. The protagonists in the images imply a character that is human-like, but almost alien, making the viewer question the time and place these subjects reside – allowing a sometimes serene and sometimes uncomfortable sense of surreal juxtaposition between land, animal, and human.

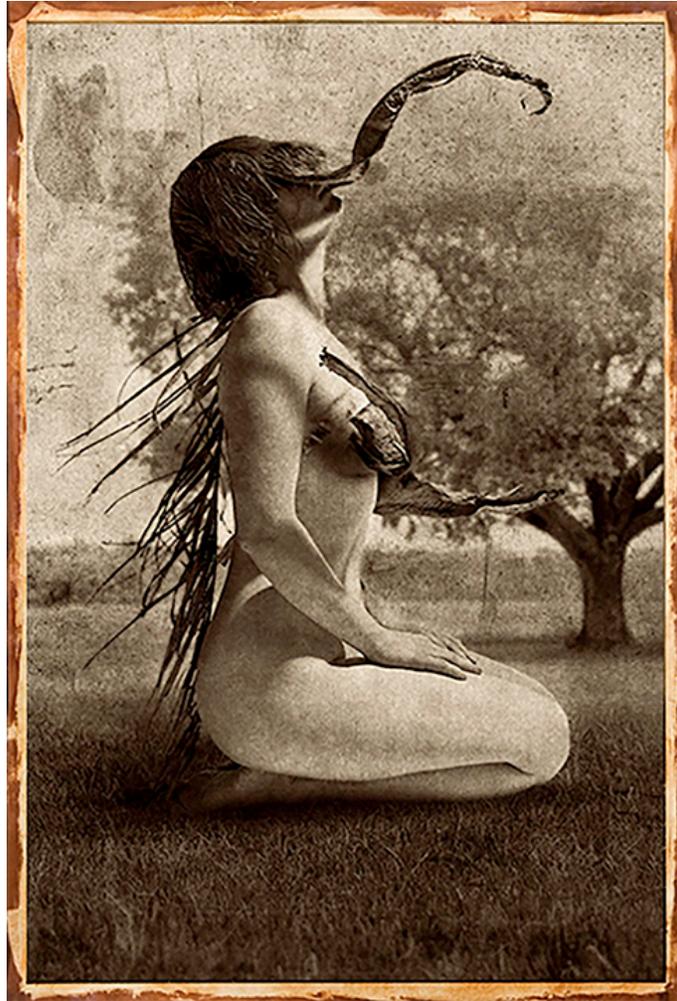


LOUVIERE+VANESSA, *Loup Garou*, 2004, 34 x 24", mixed media, edition of 15.

*Our style has evolved from working in print making, painting, photography and the conviction that the negative itself is sacred. We now try to avoid the preciousness usually associated with the production and presentation of photography. There's no "white glove" approach. To that end, we begin with the destruction of the negative. We wax, stain with blood, crush and tear the final print. We also print the images at large sizes, again negating their preciousness. There are editions to each piece, but in order to maintain an organic feel, no two are exactly alike in size or color. The prints are made on Japanese handmade paper in order to mimic the color and texture of the creatures as well as give an extra sense of the artists' hand...*

-Louviere+Vanessa

This series begins with an archival pigment ink print on Japanese paper, then the print is varnished, toned, stained with various mediums including the artists' own blood, then finished with an oil varnish.



LOUVIERE+VANESSA, *Obscuritas*, 2004, 34 x 24", mixed media, edition of 15.

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## Counterfeit

*These images are exaggerated photographs of world currency that distill the value that countries place on their histories and culture. We find the secular canonization of politicians, a reverence of animals, and the celebration of artists and poets. It fascinates us to see the similarities shared by countries that are culturally and politically polar when they choose to filter their histories onto a few square inches of paper.*

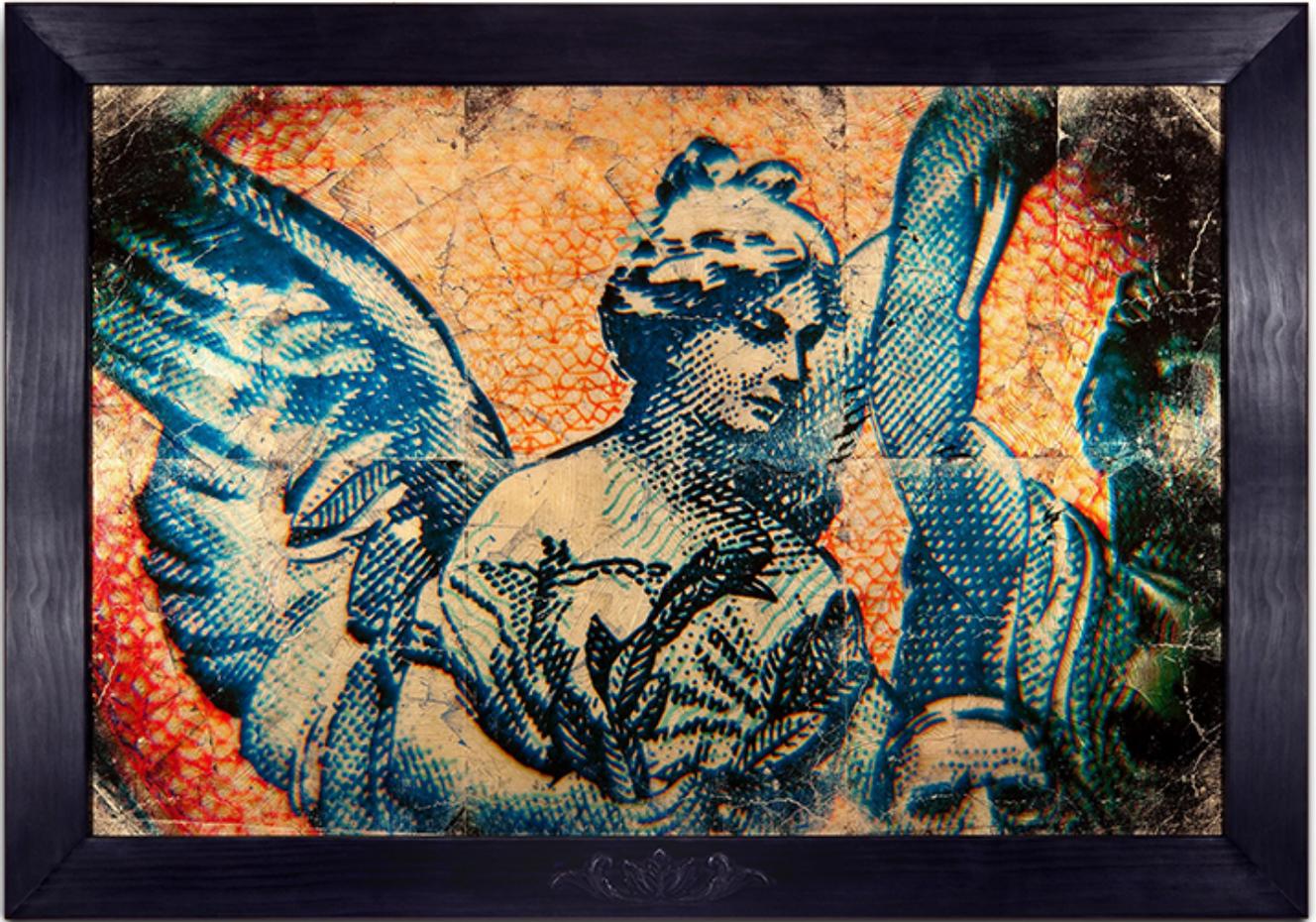
-Louviere+Vanessa



LOUVIERE+VANESSA, *The fog of youth was thicker than he remembered*, 2010, 31 x 47", mixed media, unique.

*Counterfeit explores intersections between realism in photography with the expressionistic aspects of painting and the abstractionist possibilities inherent in both. We are inspired by [Robert] Rauschenberg's idea of "working within the gap between life and art". We explore the tension between photography and painting, realism, and abstraction.* -Louviere+Vanessa

This series includes archival pigment ink prints on kozo paper overlaid onto gold and/or silver leaf, then finished in resin and completed with the artists' handmade frames.



LOUVIERE+VANESSA, *To the flower the sun is more amazing than god*, 2010, 31 x 47", mixed media, unique.

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## Resonantia

*This body of work is based on the interaction of sight and sound. Although scientifically categorized as respective senses, they can often work in unison. The term 'kymatik' (the study of sound wave phenomena) was coined by the Swiss doctor Hans Jenny in 1967 through his study of visual sound patterns. But this phenomenon had been noted hundreds of years earlier by both DiVinci and Galileo. Our years of exploring the fringes of photography have driven us to an equal preoccupation with the ways that the gap between sight and sound can be bridged and presented as fine art. Just as a sound can be seen, so too can an image be heard... - Louviere+Vanessa*



LOUVIERE+VANESSA, (left) #d, (right) #a, from the *Resonantia* series, 2015, 16 x 16", mixed media, unique edition.

Each photograph was made by creating a frequency on a home-made spectrograph and represent each of the 12 notes in music. The images were archivally printed on kozo paper. Hand-made stretchers were built to hold the dibond which was primed and covered in gold leaf. The image was laid down over the gold and flooded with resin. Once dry, the piece is wet sanded to remove all reflections then a second pass of resin and polish was hand applied to specific parts of the piece.

## Heretic

*Our characters in Heretic are still Southern Gothic by nature and now in form: blurry, damaged, delusional but with a thread of dark humor. These subjects and materials are at times irrational, supernatural, transgressive and impulsive. Heretic is not so much about telling a story as it is an exploration of image and marks being made by an unreliable narrator. We are using beauty as rebellion and creating a space for the viewer between anarchy and form. – Louviere+Vanessa.*



LOUVIERE+VANESSA, *Transverberation of St. Dorothy*, 2018, 40 x 32", mixed media, unique.

*Our work for the past 15 years has used photography as the primary medium and the door to the experiments we've undergone. With Heretic we are using photography as an ingredient in a surrealistic based genetic recombination. We have used a glut of materials throughout our work. These elements... blood, wax, resin, gold, charcoal, have been integral as the underpinning of idea and underscoring of the photograph. The materials now are used as a statement rather than a substrate. – Louviere+Vanessa.*

These images are either archival pigment ink prints on kozo paper or photographs on canvas, sometimes employing automotive metal flake, gold leaf, resin, dibond, and other materials.



LOUVIERE+VANESSA, *Rosy Blue*, 2018, 40 x 32", mixed media, unique.

### **BIOGRAPHY:**

Louviere+Vanessa's work effectively combines the mediums and nuances of film, photography, painting, and printmaking. They utilize Holgas, scanners, 8mm film, destroyed negatives, wax, blood, and various other mediums to patina their photographs. They experiment in moving pictures and created the first movie shot with a plastic Holga camera consisting of 1,944 frames. In addition, they have experimented with music and imagery with the series, *Resonantia*, which includes a vinyl album and imagery containing all 12 musical notes using a generator and spectrometer to visualize the images.

Since they began professionally showing in 2004, they have been in over 55 exhibitions and film festivals in America and abroad. They are included in the collections of the Museum of Art | Houston, the Photomedia Center, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, as well as the film archive for Globians International Film in Potsdam Germany, and Microcinema in San Francisco. Six of their images were acquired by the George Eastman House for an exhibit that traveled the world through 2010. They had their first solo museum exhibition at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans in October 2012, followed by a solo show at the Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland, Florida.

Jeff Louviere is from New Orleans, Vanessa Brown is from upstate New York and they met each other in Savannah, Georgia. Jeff graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design during which he and 3 other artists created the world's largest painting, a 76,000 square foot image of Elvis which was included in the Guinness Book of World Records. Vanessa began photographing at age 12 and won a Kodak International Award of Excellence in Photography when she was 17. She almost became a pro race car driver but instead, she photographed through Italy and Greece before graduating from Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Photography.

**For more information and high resolution images please contact Jennifer Schlesinger:**

[info@obscuragallery.net](mailto:info@obscuragallery.net)

**505-577-6708**

### **THE GALLERY LOCATION AND HOURS**

Obscura Gallery is located in the Santa Fe downtown historic district two blocks east of the revitalized Downtown Railyard district. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11-5pm and by appointment.

Parking is limited. Additional parking is available Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 9:00pm at the State Capitol Parking Facility municipal garage located at 485 Galisteo Street. There is also metered parking always available on Galisteo street next to the Parking Facility.