



LOU PERALTA

Deconstructed Portraits



LOU PERALTA, *Disassemble #48*, 2019, 23 x 22" archival pigment ink print cinnamon and wood strips, edition of 8

Reception with the Artist:
July 8, 2022, 5-7pm

Exhibition is on view May 28 through July 30, 2022

Obscura Gallery is thrilled to debut the unique photo-based portraiture by Mexican artist Lou Peralta in her solo summer exhibition: *Deconstructed Portraits*. From the fourth generation in a family of studio portrait photographers, Peralta pushes the boundaries and defines new meanings in contemporary portraiture. Peralta's work deconstructs traditional notions of portraiture to carry viewers deeper into not only the personas of her subjects, but also the broader culture of Mexico. She deepens her photography by combining her portraiture with cultural physical objects referencing pre-Hispanic influences on contemporary culture.

The reception with the artist will take place at Obscura Gallery on Friday, July 8, 2022 from 5-7pm. The exhibition is on view May 28 – July 30, 2022.

1405 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 505-577-6708 info@obscuragallery.net

WWW.OBSCURAGALLERY.NET



Lou Peralta, *Disassemble #23*, 2021, 14 x 11", archival pigment ink print with gold paper ribbons, edition of 10, each unique.

"Lou Peralta's portraiture project 'Disassemble' seeks out people from different regions of Mexico that reflect the country's varied cultural heritage and celebrates the diverse genetic make-up of their physical characteristics. Peralta seeks to build appreciation for a new Mexican identity and overcome certain stereotypes and preconceptions. The images are embedded, sewn, and woven with materials that Peralta says are the 'DNA' of Mexican life from the regions that the people photographed call home. She feels her images will create a new energy and consciousness regarding what it means to be Mexican." – Geoffrey Koslov, *Fotorelevance*, Houston, TX.



Lou Peralta, *Disassemble #31*, 2018, 18 x 34", archival pigment ink print with luffa, edition of 8, each unique.

1405 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 obscuragalleryphoto@gmail.com

WWW.OBSCURAGALLERY.NET



Lou Peralta, Disassemble #24-1 and #24-2, 2018, each 24 x 18", archival pigment ink print mounted on wood board with nails & cord, edition of 4, each unique.

My work seeks new meanings in portraiture, a new purpose. As a fourth-generation member of a family of portrait photographers, I celebrate my historic relationship with photography, but at the same time I'm finding my own voice, my own creative practice, by deconstructing images. After more than 30 years as a portrait photographer, my work captures an energy and internal consciousness influenced by the diverse cultural heritages from across Mexico. I also embed into portraits physical elements that have been used in Mexico since pre-Hispanic times, together with objects from Mexican daily life. This embedded tactile dimension invites the viewer to study these images to understand that person's heritage and life. Within these images are the captured moments of vulnerability, sadness, solitude or despair, among other states of mind. Portraiture, for me, preserves evidence of the past and defines how our age will be represented in the future. These sculpted portraits are one way that I carry our past forward. – Lou Peralta



Lou Peralta, Disassemble #47, 2019, 27 x 27", C- print on Pearl paper mounted over Dibond. Edition of 11, each unique.

1405 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 obscuragalleryphoto@gmail.com

WWW.OBSCURAGALLERY.NET



Lou Peralta, *Disassemble #26*, 2018, 13 x 12", Archival pigment ink paper with bamboo, amate and cord attached, Edition of 4, each unique.



Lou Peralta, *Disassemble #25*, 2018, 27 x 19", Archival pigment ink paper, Edition of 11, each unique.

1405 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 obscuragalleryphoto@gmail.com

WWW.OBSCURAGALLERY.NET

Also included in the exhibition are works from Lou Peralta's recent series, *Comalli*, which are portraits of contemporary Mexicans with hand-applied references to domestic legacies.



Lou Peralta, *Comalli 11*, 2020, 24 x 20", Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Ultra Smooth paper with gold tissue paper, Edition of 5, each unique.

The word "comalli" comes from the Aztec Nahuatl for griddle or comal. I became interested in looking back to the time of the Spanish conquest in America (16th century), to see how Mexicans or Aztecs portrayed themselves during this critical period in our history. This mixed media series is inspired by the Mendocino Codex (housed at the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford), which refers to the use of a comalli (griddle in náhuatl), a household tool that has been used for the same purposes in Mexican homes since that time.

Working with several used comalli and portraits of contemporary Mexicans, I intend to represent contemporary women and men from my country and make the analogy that as the wrinkles on a person's face bear witness to the passage of time, the stains on the comal are a sign of its years of use. – Lou Peralta



Lou Peralta, Comalli 8, 2020, 24 x 20", Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Ultra Smooth paper with hand-constructed ixtle weave from chalqueño agave plant , Edition of 5, each unique.

The production of the art works in this series begins by printing the portraits utilizing Hahnemuehle Photo Rag Ultra Smooth paper and Epson archival pigment inks with protective spray. I then embed into the prints physical elements that have been used in Mexico since pre-Hispanic times, together with objects from Mexican daily life which are hand-constructed, such as tissue paper, sack cloth, cardboard, plastic fabric, hammered brass, luffa vegetable sponge, metal fiber, jerga cloth, amate paper, agave thread, corn husks and feathers. – Lou Peralta



Lou Peralta, Comalli 7, 2020, 24 x 20", Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Ultra Smooth paper feathers, Edition of 5.



Installation image of the grid of nine Comalli pieces in the exhibition.

Lou Peralta (b. 1964) is based in Mexico City. She earned an undergraduate degree in graphic design with a major in editorial design from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, and completed a specialty course in contemporary photography at the Node Center for Curatorial Studies. In 2017, she was named a brand ambassador by Fujifilm Mexico. Her work has appeared in publications such as *LensCulture*, *VISOR*, *Milenio*, *CEO North America*, and *Catalyst: Interviews*.

In 2017, after more than 30 years as a portrait photographer, Lou Peralta decided to devote herself full-time to creating her own contemporary photography.

In addition to her contemporary photography practice, Peralta is working with her father, Héctor Herrera, on a book project that celebrates the centennial anniversary of the family's four-generation photography business.

Lou is a Fujifilm Mexico Brand Ambassador, joining a worldwide group of "X-Photographers." Most recently Fujifilm generously issued their new Instax printers to Peralta for her testing, enabling her now to share images with her subjects in her portraiture projects.

For high resolution files and more information please contact:

Jennifer Schlesinger
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.