KOSLOV
LARSEN

LOU PERALTA

Disassemble Series V,
Portraits of the Invisible - Volume 2
“Connected”, 2020-2023.

Photo sculptures made with wire weaved with printed portraits in fabric and paper.

We are just atoms made of energy,
that means we are INVISIBLE beings,
that can only see each other
by the reflection of light.

Armando Herrera self-portrait, 1944.

Ana Lourdes Herrera "Lou Peralta",
(Armando Herrera´s granddaughter), 2023.

Portrait by ©Parvathi Kumar

LOU PERALTA

visual artist and
contemporary photographer

PROJECT STATEMENT

Disassemble Series V,
Portraits of the Invisible - Volume 2
"Connected", 2020-2023.

The making of my versions of the portraits by my grandfather Armando Herrera "The Photographer of the Stars" that span around 80 years.

This life series is part of my continuous exploration of portraiture as a reflection of the energy and complexity of the human being. As when we see our face reflected in running water, it's never static –we are constantly moving, our states of mind shifting and evolving; we are like a perfect machine creating moments in our life.
It started in 2016 when I decided to fully dedicate to make my own contemporary photography after being an editorial photographer for over 30 years. I started to research, catalog, and study how my family depicted life in Mexico over 4 generations.

My intention in Stage V of my Disassemble Series is to get to know my grandfather Armando HERRERA through making my own contemporary version of his extraordinary portraits that span around 80 years, moving from his analog photographs through my artistic exploration of portraiture (with digital pictures that try to decipher symbolic meanings, technological changes, and resonances in society over time). And as final pieces, the creation of these unique hand-constructed three-dimensional photo sculptures.
In this portrait sculptures, we cannot see a face, a body or a life story, but only **the feeling and perception that I had when portraying the person evoked as an energy structure because, in essence, that is what we are.**
Inside our cells are atoms, and inside them are electrons and particles, and inside the smallest particle, there are only filaments of energy moving very fast.

I am the 4th generation and the last photographer in this family. I am closing a cycle and giving meaning to the 120 years of the Legendary HERRERA Portrait Studio in Mexico City in which we have dedicated to portraiture.

PROCESS

Each one of these three dimensional pieces begins with an analog portrait made by Armando Herrera, between 1936 and 1956 in the so-called "Golden Age of Mexican Cinema". With these I elaborate a digital portrait of my own version of it. The final pieces are these photo sculptures.

They measure between 9 and 59 inches of height. Each one of them is imbedded with polyester fabrics printed in sublimation, archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle paper, or Japanese paper (sometimes glued with archival materials), cut into strips to be woven through a hand-constructed weaved red garnished copper wire net.

The Artist celebrates the beauty of imperfection, and the passage of time in prints strips which will naturally transform in shape over time. She has also chosen to leave the edges of the fabric unbound so that over time they may naturally unravel.

Disassemble #13.
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle rice paper and wood.
31 x 37x 12". Unique piece.

Disassemble #12.
Disassemble Series V, 2022.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Rice paper and Photo Rag Ultra Smooth Hahnemühle paper, and Japanese Rice paper.
25x28x15". Unique piece.

Disassemble #11.
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional
photo sculpture, with a
hand-woven copper wire net
with archival pigment prints in
Hahnemühle rice paper and the
weaving wood handle.
27.5 x 16.5x 8.6". Unique piece.

Disassemble #5.
Disassemble Series V, 2022.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle Photo Rag Ultra Smooth paper, and a tree branch.
22 x15x 8.6". Unique piece.

Disassemble #17.
Disassemble Series V, 2021.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with prints in fabric in sublimation technique and golden thread.
31x39x17". Unique piece.

Disassemble #18.
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle Rice paper with an acrylic tube.
39x59x18". Unique piece.

Disassemble #1.
Disassemble Series V, 2022.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with an archival pigment print in Japanese rice paper.
11x9x3". Unique piece.

Disassemble #15.
Disassemble Series V, 2022.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle Rice paper, and tree roots, with an acrylic tube.
40x34x6". Unique piece.

Disassemble #14.
Disassemble Series V, 2022.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture,
with a hand-woven copper wire net
and steel wire, with archival
pigment prints in Hahnemühle Rice paper.
30x20x15". Unique piece.

Disassemble #16.
Disassemble Series V, 2022.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with a printed portrait in fabric with sublimation technique.
32.2 x 28.3 x 15.7". Unique piece.

Disassemble #6.
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle rice paper, mirrors, and silk threads dyed with organic colors.
15 x 35x 8". Unique piece.

Disassemble #2.
Disassemble Series V, 2022.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle rice paper, and plastic red nets.
10x18x5". Unique piece.

Disassemble #9.
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle rice paper, with silk threads, and scapulars and an acrilic tube.
22 x 28x 6". Unique piece.

Disassemble #3.
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle rice paper.
12 x 28x 16". Unique piece.

Disassemble #4.
Disassemble Series V, 2021.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with a hand-woven copper wire net with a print in fabric in sublimation technique.
14 x 27 x 8". Unique piece.

Disassemble #10
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture, with
a hand-woven copper wire net with
archival pigment prints in Hahnemühle
rice paper, 8mm film strips
and the portrayed person´s baton.
20x14x3" Unique piece.

Disassemble #8.
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture,
with a hand-woven copper
wire net with archival
pigment prints in Hahnemühle
Rice paper, and stones.
36x20x6". Unique piece.

Disassemble #7.
Disassemble Series V, 2023.
Three-dimensional photo sculpture,
with a hand-woven copper wire net
with archival pigment prints
in Hahnemühle rice paper ,
a tree branch painted with oils,
and an acrylic tube.
40x20x12". Unique piece.

Disassemble #13

Disassemble #11

Disassemble #12

Disassemble #17

Disassemble #18

Disassemble #1

Disassemble #15

Disassemble #14

Disassemble #16

Disassemble #5

Disassemble #6

Disassemble #2

Disassemble #9

Disassemble #3

Disassemble #4

Disassemble #10

Disassemble #8

Disassemble #7

31"
39"
27"
14"
59"
39"
40"
20"
22"
28"

Documentation / research

Armando Herrera (1912-2010), the 2nd generation of the Herrera dynasty, was a famous portrait photographer who created a unique style in 20th Century Mexico. He began his photographic career in 1932 and retired in 1997.
Throughout more than six decades he was known as **The star´s photographer** "El fotógrafo de las estrellas" and the most important showbiz personalities of his time came to his studio. Hundreds of movie and theater actors, singers, dancers, musicians, composers, radio announcers and other talented artists posed in front of his camera and he immortalized them.

"Armando Herrera worked on the pinnacle of the idol image-making industry. His photos rapidly reached the level of a 'must'. The actors, actresses, singers and musicians that demanded the work of Herrera all knew that a portrait from 'el fotógrafo de las estrellas' would give them a head start."

Carlos Monsivais.

Self Portrait by Armando Herrera

Photos by Armando Herrera

Armando Herrera studio in 1952.

(Armando Herrera photographs are Rights Reserved © Hector H. Herrera)

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1963.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2022.

Disassemble #13 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1936.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2021.

Disassemble #12, 2022.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1936.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2021.

Disassemble #5, 2023.

Disassemble #11, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1936.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2020.

Disassemble #17, 2023.

Documentation / process

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1949.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2021.

Disassemble #18, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1936.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2014.

Disassemble #1, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1957.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2022.

Disassemble #14, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1957.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2022.

Disassemble #15, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1934.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2020.

Disassemble #16, 2022.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1940.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2017.

Disassemble #6, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1943.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2020.

Disassemble #2, 2022.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1947.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2019.

Disassemble #9, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1972.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2018.

Disassemble #3, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1943.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2020.

Disassemble #4, 2021.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1939.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2021.

Disassemble #10, 2023.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1953.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2021.

Disassemble #8, 2022.

Portrait by Armando Herrera, 1953.

Portrait by Lou Peralta, 2021.

Disassemble #7, 2023.

Documentation / the making

Lou Peralta hand-construct her own nets through weaving wih red copper wire (of different thickness) with a wood stick needle or with a knitting hook.

She uses different objects to make uneven nets when needed.

The edges of these pieces are finished with detailed wire.

Lou Peralta removing the piece from the loom.

To make the designs with closed stitches, Lou Peralta designed this loom that allows her to have precise control of the shape and give structure to the sculptures.

October, Lou Peralta is selected as Photolucida´s Critical Mass 2023 “Top 50”.

June, Elizabeth Stone interviews Lou Peralta. Featured in Lenscratch Magazine.

November, Lou Peralta has been invited to attend the CENTER’s 22nd Review Santa Fe Photo Symposium, 2023.

Cover photo by: Margaux Walter

March, Lou Peralta as a keynote speaker for Cameracraftsmen of America in Mexico City. And becomes International member elect by invitation.

January, Medium San Diego. Virtual seminar led by Mary Virginia Swanson with guest speakers Frances Jakubek and Gordon Stettinius. Guest artists Lou Peralta and Elizabeth Stone.

BIO

Lou Peralta (Mexican b. 1964)

Lou Peralta is a visual artist and photographer based in Mexico City.

After graduating in graphic design at the Universidad Iberoamericana in 1992, she sought to follow the family tradition by becoming part of the fourth generation of photographers from the family of the Legendary HERRERA Portrait Studio in Mexico.

Over the following thirty years Lou established herself as a photographer for the magazine FotoForum as well as having done work for other magazines such as Marie Claire and Vogue among various others.

Lou's work is influenced by both pre-Hispanic and contemporary culture which she fuses together as she seeks to explore, in depth, the meaning behind the concept of a portrait.

Fueled by her desire to push the boundaries of traditional 2 dimensional photographic portraits, she deconstructs and then reconstructs her work by adorning and interweaving a variety of items such as corn husks, agave cactus fibers, market bags and copper thread in order to create a transformation into a 3 dimensional work of art.

Lou says, "In my work, I look to push the limits of portrait photography. I try to capture a moment, a story, an emotion - albeit fleeting - to encapsulate for an instant the quintessential essence of that individual – and immortalize it in my art."

Throughout the years, Lou has had multiple solo and collective shows both internationally and in Mexico. Due to her success as an artist she has been named a brand ambassador to Fujifilm as part of their X-Photographers program and also counts herself as an elected member of Cameracraftsmen of America International.

Her most recent accolades include being selected as a Top 50 in the Photolucida Critical Mass 2023 competition, along with being an invited guest to the 22nd Symposium of photography in Santa Fe, USA.

Email: lou@louperalta.art

MOST RECENT EXHIBITIONS

2024 Critical Mass Top 50. Colorado Photographic Arts Center (CPAC).
Denver, USA. (Feb 23 - April 13).
2023 "Comalli": Family history witness. Femgrafia Gallery. Hispanoamerica.
2022 Deconstructed Portraits. Obscura Gallery in Santa Fe, Nuevo Mexico, USA.
2022 Houston Center of Photography Auction 2022 exhibition. Houston, Tx, USA.
2021 3rd annual Art @ CityCentreHou. Weingarten Group + Foto Relevance Gallery. Houston, Texas, USA.
2020 Habitat. Arte and History Museum of Guanajuato. León, Guanajuato, Mx.
2020 Utopias femeninas. Patricia Conde Gallery. Mexico City, Mexico
2020 Quarantine blues. Foto Relevance Gallery. Houston, Texas, USA.
2020 A Conversation between Women: Cecilia Villanueva/Lou Peralta. Mexican Consulate. Houston, Texas, USA.
2019 Disassemble Series. Foto Relevance Gallery. Houston, Texas, USA.

GALLERIES In The United States:

Represented by **KOSLOV LARSEN** Gallery
in Houston:
www.koslovlarsen.com

Represented by **OBSCURA GALLERY**
in Santa Fe, New Mexico:
www.obscuragallery.net

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