



LOU PEROLTA

OBSCURA GALLERY

Santa Fe, Nuevo Mexico | *May - July 2022*

(cover image)

Disassemble #23

Archival pigment print with paper ribbons
16 x 14", edition of 10 + 1 AP unique variants

LOU PERALTA

Visual Artist

Lou is the fourth generation of a family of portrait photographers. After more than 30 years as an editorial photographer herself, she decided to devote full time to creating her own contemporary photography in which she explores portraiture and fuse pre-Hispanic influences with contemporary culture, often extending her photographic works on paper by imbedding physical references to historical and contemporary domestic life.

She earned an undergraduate degree in graphic design, she then completed a specialty course in contemporary photography at Node Center for Curatorial Studies.

In addition to her Contemporary Photography practice, Peralta is working with her father Héctor Herrera on a book project celebrating her family photography business that spans four generations on its Centennial anniversary. She is a Fujifilm Mexico Brand Ambassador, joining a worldwide group of "X-Photographers".





THE DISASSEMBLE SERIES

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.

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

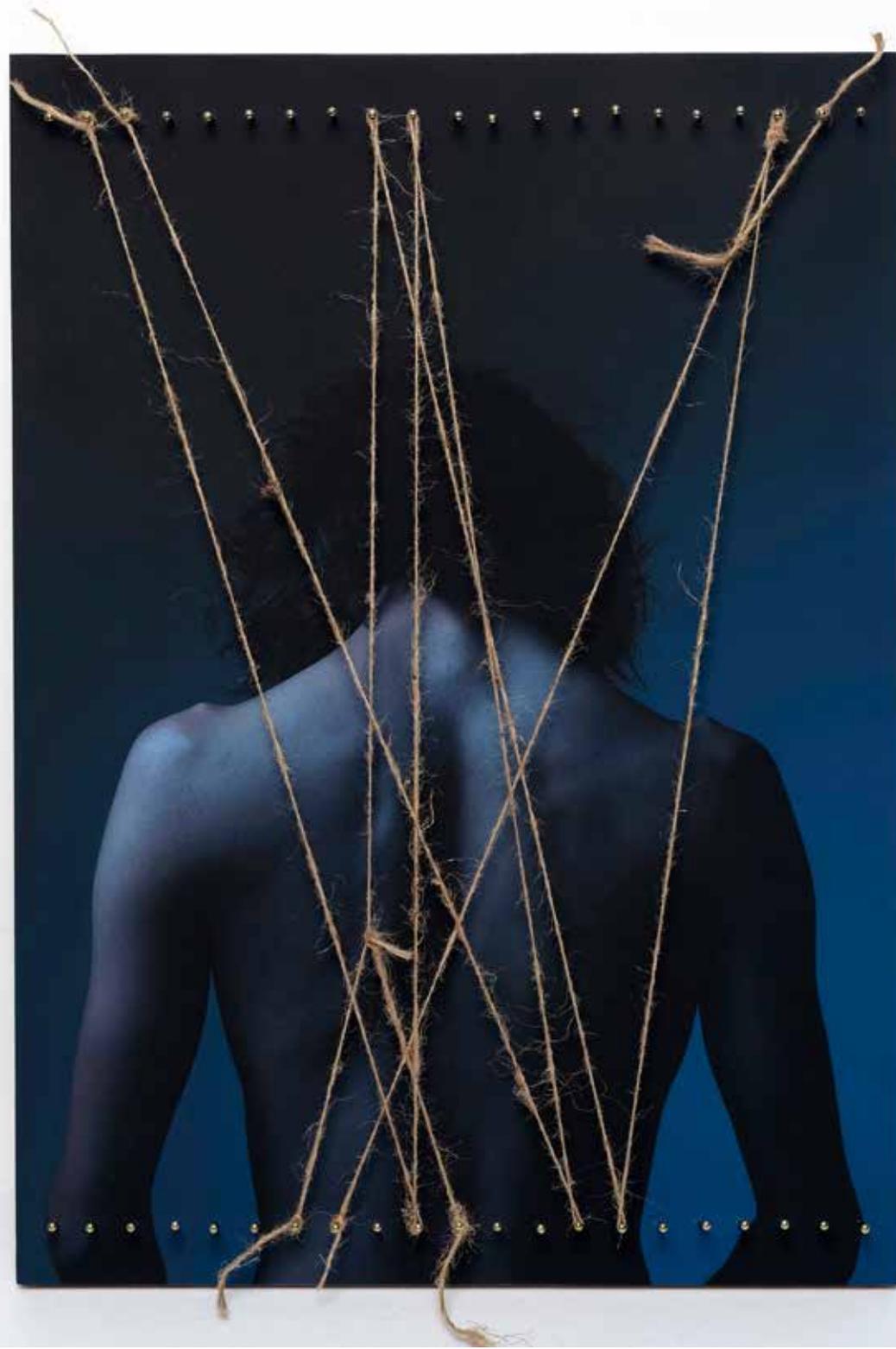
All works featured in this catalog are available for sale through Obscura Gallery in Santa Fe, NM.

Please contact the gallery for more information.

Disassemble #20

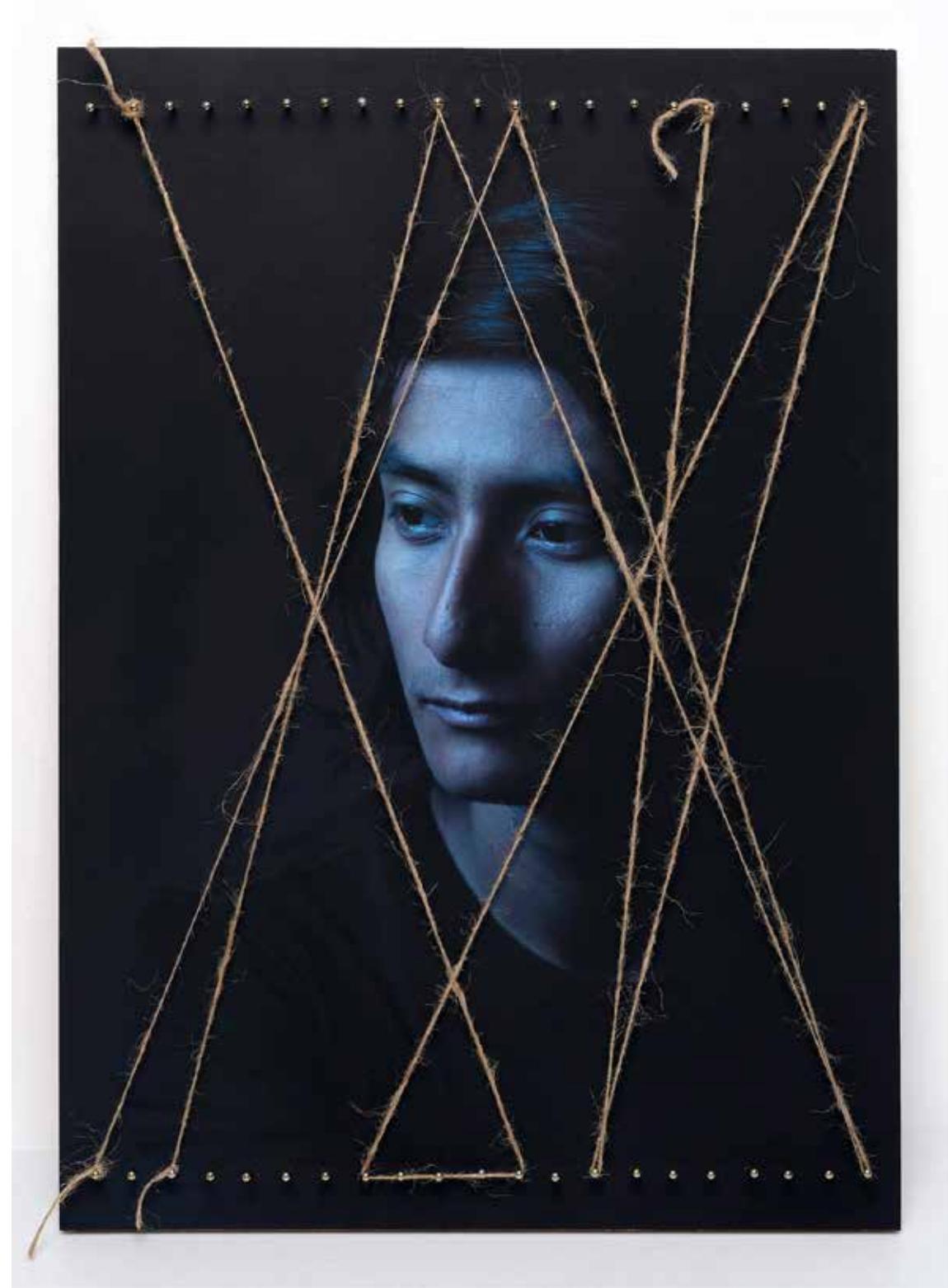
Archival pigment print with feathers
20 x 14", edition of 10 + 1 AP unique variants





Disassemble #24-1

Archival pigment print mounted on wood board with nails & cord
23 3/4 x 17", edition of 3 + 1 AP unique variants



Disassemble #24-2

Archival pigment print mounted on wood board with nails & cord
20 x 17", edition of 3 + 1 AP unique variants



Disassemble #25

Archival pigment print on white board
27.5 x 19", edition of 10 + 1 AP unique variants



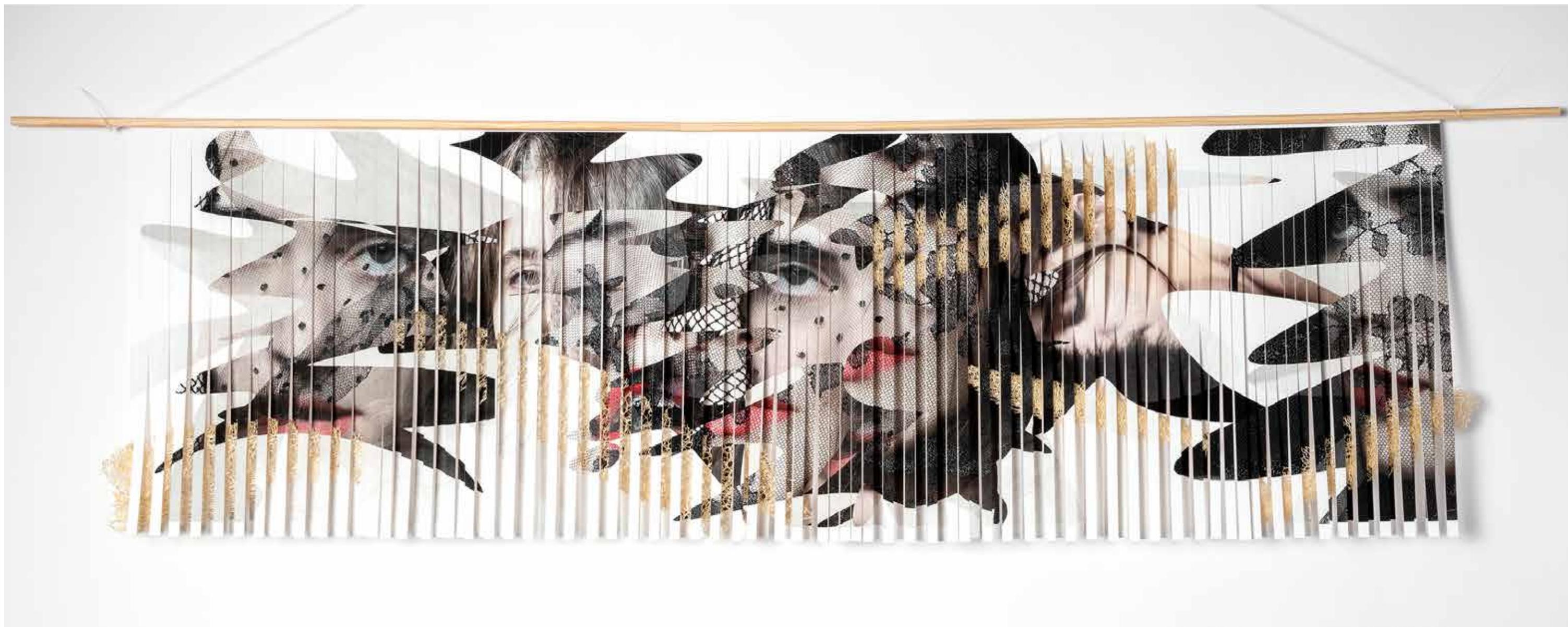
Disassemble #26

Archival pigment print with bamboo, cord, & amate paper
12 x 13", edition of 3 + 1 AP unique variants



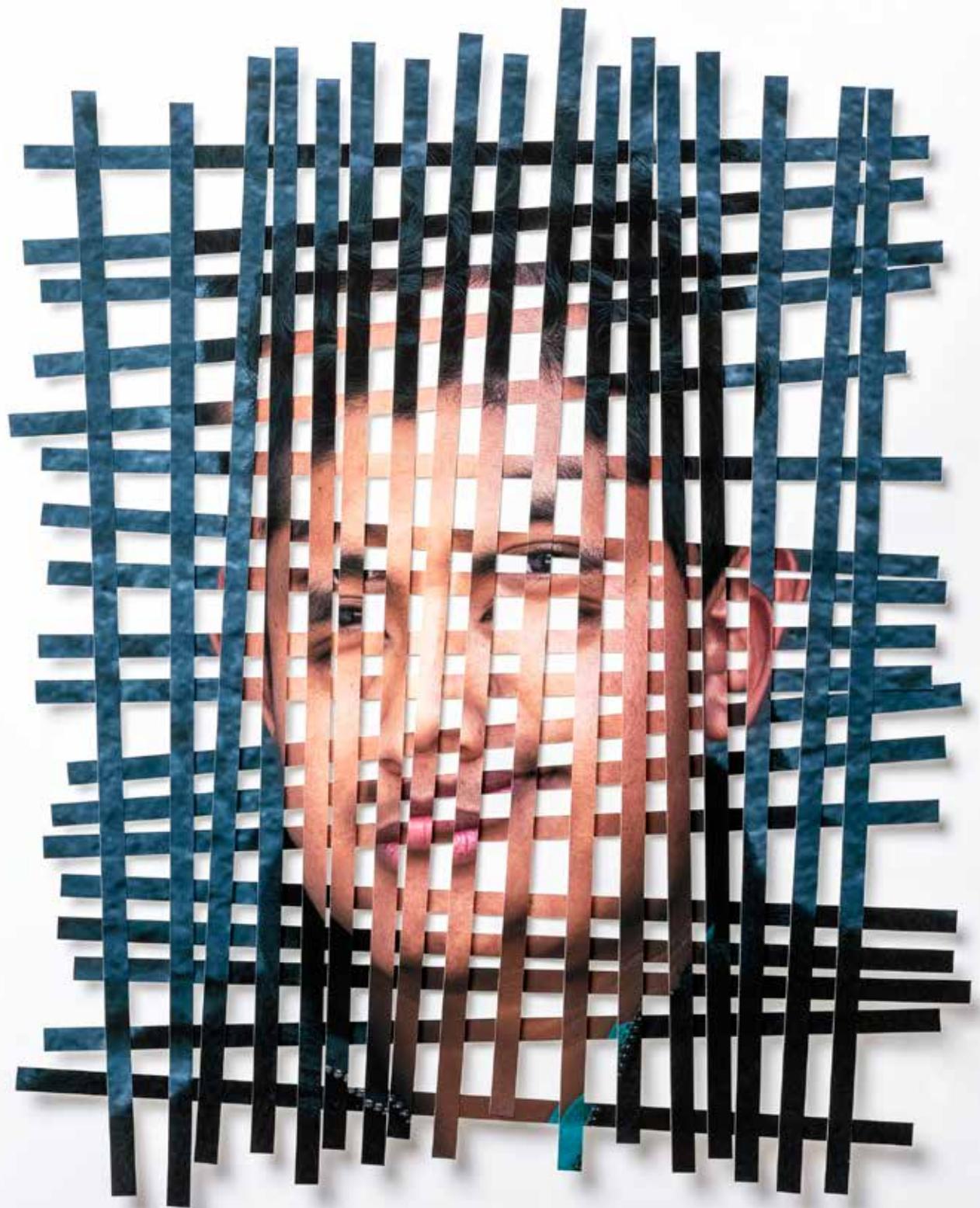
Disassemble #27

Archival pigment print with jerga
23 3/5 x 23 3/5", edition of 10 + 1 AP unique variants



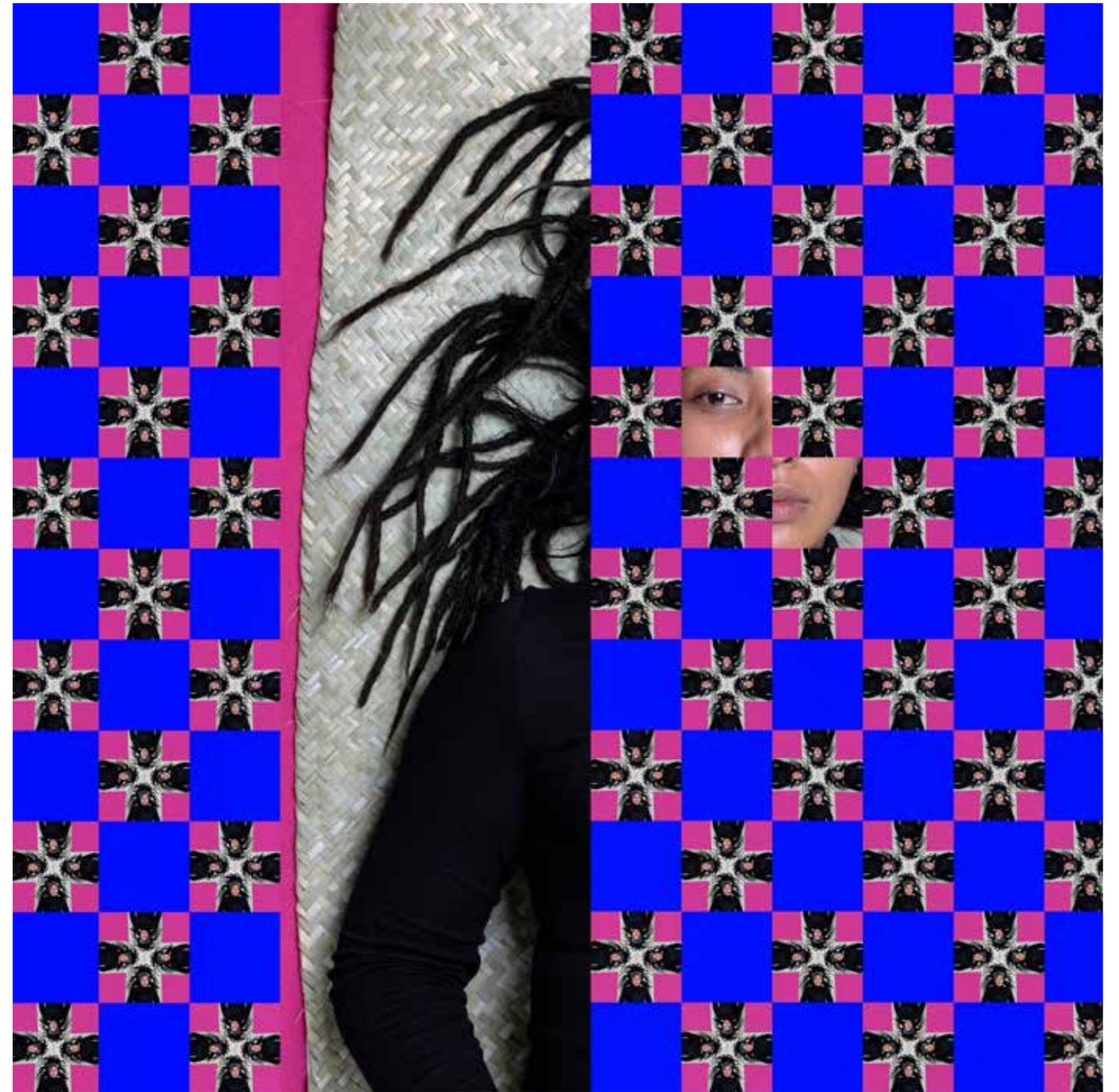
Disassemble #31

Archival pigment print with luffa
34 3/5 x 18 3/10", edition of 7 + 1 AP unique variants



Disassemble #39B

Archival pigment print
19 17/25 x 15 7/20", edition of 10 + 1 AP unique variants



Disassemble #47

C print on Pearl paper over Dibond
26 1/2 x 26 1/2", edition of 10 + 1 AP unique variants



Disassemble #48

Archival pigment print with cinnamon & wood stripes
23 x 22", edition of 7 + 1 AP unique variants



Disassemble #68

Sublimation print on polyester fabric with wood, metal "milagritos", gold and silver leaf, and fabric
27.5 x 23.7 x 2.7", unique piece



Disassemble #4

Sublimation print on polyester fabric, cut into strips, woven through a 'honeycomb' wire panel
33 x 29 x 9", edition of 2 + 1 AP unique variants

THE COMALLI SERIES

The word "comalli" comes from the Aztec Nahuatl for griddle or comal. As the fourth generation of a family of Mexico City-based portrait photographers, my work seeks to find new meanings in portraiture. I became interested in looking back to the time of the Spanish conquest in America (16th century), to see how Mexicas 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 references 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 intent 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.

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 gold tissue paper, plastic fabric, hammered brass, jerga cloth, amate, agave fibers and feathers among other materials which are attached with archival glue and tape.

– Lou Peralta

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Comalli #2

Archival pigment print with zacate
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #3

Archival pigment print with amate
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #5

Archival pigment print with plastic market bag fabric
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #6

Archival pigment print with jerga
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #8

Archival pigment print with ixtle weave
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #10

Archival pigment print with hand-constructed hammered brass
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #11

Archival pigment print with gold tissue paper
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #12

Archival pigment print with pink kraft paper
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #14

Archival pigment print with red plastic fabric
14 x 11 x .4", small size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Comalli #7

Archival pigment print with feathers
24 x 20 x .4", large size edition of 5 + 1 AP unique variants



Obscura Gallery was established in 2016 to represent the finest contributions to the history of photography through both contemporary and vintage works. Each represented artist, ranging from 19th-21st century photographers, offers a unique approach to the medium with special attention emphasized on the fine print. Obscura Gallery celebrates the ways in which contemporary artists are using progressive processes to build upon the medium which began nearly 200 years ago. In addition to the represented contemporary artists, Obscura Gallery also carries an ongoing, rotating inventory of 19th and 20th Century photography. These focus on regional Southwest United States and Mexican photographers, along with mid-Century masters from around the world.

Founder and Owner Jennifer Schlesinger previously served as Director of Santa Fe's Verve Gallery of Photography for eleven years. A passionate photography dealer, scholar, and notable artist in the medium herself, Jennifer and Obscura Gallery offer guidance on collection building, consulting and advising, as well as estate representation, appraisals, research, de-accession and consignments.

Located in the Santa Fe downtown historic district two blocks east of the revitalized Railyard district, Obscura Gallery resides in an historic building that was renovated in 2017. The space is shared with Brant Mackley Gallery which specializes in exceptional antique North America Indian, Oceanic, Asian, and African art – together, the two offer a unique, deeply-layered, and intertwined gallery experience.

Obscura Gallery

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Owner | Director: Jennifer Schlesinger

