

paulina olowska

*resonance**

march 25 – may 5, 2023

opening

march 25, 12 – 2 pm

*with the photographic
archive of deborah
turbeville

courtesy of
MUUS Collection

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kurimanzutto is honored to announce the first exhibition in Mexico by artist Paulina Olowska. *Resonance* will take place from March 25 to May 20, 2023, and gathers a series of works made in situ and others prepared during the artist's previous travels to Mexico.

Paulina Olowska often works with references from the past that appear in her pieces as ghosts and apparitions, vibrations of another era that interfere with her pictorial creations. In *Resonance*, Olowska makes direct reference to the archive of artist and fashion photographer Deborah Turbeville from MUUS Collection. Turbeville's photographic sessions in Poland and in Mexico in the 80's and 90's inspired Olowska to recreate some of the scenes and respond to many of the mysterious and fleeting images in her work.

What I share with Deborah is a certain melancholia for fashion.

That fashion has a symbolic dimension also connected to womanhood. But what she did with fashion is like what she did with photography –she distressed it, distanced it, she used it in metaphoric senses to bring it back to historical figures and places.” says the artist

In search of traces from Turbeville's visit to Mexico in 1989, Olowska travelled there in 2022 and collaborated with painter and muse Carmen Serratos and photographer Karla Ximena Cerón. Together they reactivated and performed *tableaux vivants* in different sites in connection to Tuberville's residence in San Miguel de Allende, where she had bought an 18th century house (currently called Casa No Name), and the mining ghost town of Mineral de Pozos to recreate and reimagine scenes from the fashion photographer's imaginary among the ruins, the opuntia cacti and the abandoned cemetery.

Later on in Kraków, Olowska photographed the Potocki Palace where Turbeville worked on a fashion shoot for W Magazine in 1998 as well as the Tadeusz Kantor Theater and the Michalik Cave, a 19th century cabaret. During this journey to the sites of the artist's past Olowska recreated Turbeville's images with photographer Jacqueline Sobiszewski. With images collaged out of these new visual references and materials, Olowska recomposes additional scenes directly on the gallery walls in collaboration with Wanda, a wall printing robot.

For *Resonance*, Olowaska expands her practice beyond painting, working with the stone mason workshop of Joel Arrieta in Mexico to carve images evoked from Turbeville's photographs into several limestone sculptures. These new works on view are exhibited alongside a selection of original archival materials from MUUS Collection showing Turbeville's trips to Mexico and Krakow.

kurimanzutto would like to thank MUUS Collection for their support of this project. For more information and sales inquiries on Deborah Turbeville:

General inquiries: contact@muus.com

Sales inquiries: lucrezia.dimartino@muus.com

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about the artist

Paulina Olowaska was born in 1976 in Gdansk, Poland, and lives and works in Rabka Zdroj, Poland. She is currently doing an artist residency in Athens, Greece and has had one-person exhibitions at Kunsthalle Basel; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and the Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw. Olowaska received the prestigious Aachen Art Prize in 2014, with an associated exhibition at the Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen, Germany. She has also staged performances at Tate Modern, the Carnegie International, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

She presented the ballet "Slavic Goddesses—A Wreath of Ceremonies" at the Kitchen, New York, in 2017 and "Slavic Goddesses and The Ushers" at the Museo del Novecento in Milan in 2018. Her work was featured in the 2017 National Gallery of Victoria Triennial in Melbourne and the 2018 Liverpool Biennial, as well as in group exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw; mumok, Vienna; Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg; Migros Museum Für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich; and the New Museum, New York.

about deborah turbeville

Deborah Turbeville, an American artist and photographer, transformed the world of fashion photography through her groundbreaking, dreamlike, and melancholic imagery. Born in Stoneham Massachusetts in 1932, Turbeville moved to New York following her schooling with an intent to work in the theater,

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but was instead discovered by the American fashion designer Claire McCardell, who hired Turbeville as an assistant and house model. While working for McCardell, she met Diana Vreeland, then the famed editor of *Harper's Bazaar*; their introduction eventually led to Turbeville being offered a job as an editor at the magazine.

Disinterested in the editorial work she was doing at *Harper's Bazaar* and later at *Mademoiselle*, she purchased a Pentax camera in the 1960s and began experimenting with photography, ultimately enrolling in a workshop taught by photographer Richard Avedon and art director Marvin Israel in 1966. Following their tutelage, she began her career in photography, primarily working for fashion magazines like *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Mirabella*, though she didn't consider herself a fashion photographer.

In 1981, Turbeville was commissioned by Jacqueline Onassis, then an editor at Doubleday, to photograph the Palace of Versailles, particularly the disused rooms that were off-limits to tourists. The resultant book, *Unseen Versailles*, won an American Book Award, among other critical praise for its rare look into the palace's decaying grandeur.

Turbeville died in 2013, having left an indelible mark on the world of photography; she is often credited with transforming fashion imagery into avant-garde art. Her work is collected by esteemed institutions including the among others. A major retrospective of her work is set to open this year.

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about MUUS Collection

The MUUS Collection believes in the unique power of photography as an inimitable touchstone of collective cultural memory. As a functional archive, MUUS builds, preserves, studies, and shares its collections of photography to generate new scholarship and understanding, while instigating interesting and relevant dialogues within the wider photography community. MUUS preserves and promotes invaluable artifacts for generations to come and is committed to keeping photographic memory alive through exhibitions, donations, and scholarship.



Paulina Olowka, *The Witch of Pozos*, 2023

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City / New York

Photo: Gerardo Landa Rojano

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