



DONDE TODO EMPIEZA | ADRIANA LESTIDO

SOLO SHOW

Opening | Thursday 29.06.23 - 6pm

Permanence | 29.06.23 - 11.08.23

Rolf Art | Esmeralda 1353

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Rolf Art is pleased to announce the opening of the anthological exhibition of **Adriana Lestido** (Argentina, 1955), a key reference in Latin American photography, titled **Donde todo empieza** [Where it all begins]. The exhibition project brings together her most emblematic photographic essays and iconic works, consolidating in the gallery the beginning of her practice up to her last body of work, present in multiple institutions.

Adriana Lestido has dedicated the last 40 years to contemplate and capture without imposture the daily conflicts of the human being. From the feminine gaze or the notable masculine absence, with a direct and testimonial aesthetic, impelled by the vital force of the necessity that was gestated from her own experiences, the artist tries to understand from her own history, the others, those of nature and those of the world. Everything happens by itself. And in that happening, the artist searches to see something else.

The exhibition project gather together her essays and iconic works -*Madre e Hija de Plaza de Mayo* (Mother and Daughter of Plaza de Mayo, 1982); *Mujeres Presas* (Imprisoned Women, 1991-1993); a selection of *Madres Adolescentes* (Adolescent Mothers, 1988-1990); *Madres e Hijas* (Mothers and Daughters, 1995-1998); *Metrópolis* (1888-1999) and *La Antártida* (2012)- revealing the complex universe of essential bonds, showing their shades and complexities, as well as the feelings and emotions that summon, in their most honest and raw essence, light and darkness; the timeless game of existence captured with an unusual humanism and sensitivity.

What makes Adriana Lestido's work so unusual and mysterious is the nature of her (the photographer's) presence. What we see happening - existing - she achieves as if she had not been there. No one gives the impression of being photographed. And yet, at the same time, each image has been chosen and conceived with so much love and compassion. Adriana is absolutely there, with that and those she is photographing, and yet she is not there at all! **John Berger.**

Donde todo empieza [Where it all begins] offers a comprehensive overview of **Adriana Lestido's** practice, accompanying the recent release of her directorial debut, the film **Errante: La conquista del hogar** [Wanderer: The Conquest of Home] at the auditorium of **MALBA** - Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires; and to the numerous institutional exhibitions where her work is currently on display: *Del cielo a casa* (**MALBA**, Argentina), *Antártida negra* (**Centro Cultural Borges**, Argentina), *So much love and compassion* (**Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung**, Germany), *Sistemas de Representación* (**Centro Cultural Kirchner**, Argentina), *Breve historia de la eternidad* (**Centro Cultural Recoleta**, Argentina) and *Objeto histórico* (**Museo de Arte y Memoria**, Argentina).

The opening event will take place on Thursday, June 29, 2023 from 6pm at Esmeralda 1353, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The exhibition, with free admission, will be open from Monday to Friday from 11am to 7pm, and will remain open until August 11, 2023.

Hope you can join us!

ADRIANA LESTIDO

Bio

Adriana Lestido began her studies in photography in 1979, at the Avellaneda School of Audio-visual Arts. Between 1982 and 1995 she worked as a photojournalist for the newspaper La Voz, the Agency DyN and for the newspaper Página 12. Among numerous awards Lestido was the first Argentine photographer to receive the Guggenheim Grant -award (1995) and Hasselblad award (1991), and the Mother Jones award (1997). She received the prize to the trajectory (2021, National Academy of Fine Arts), Grand Acquisition Award of the National Photography Salon (2009), Lifetime Achievement Award (Argentine Association of Art Critics, 2009) and Outstanding Personality of Culture by the Legislature of CABA (2010), among others. She also was awarded with the Konex Award in 2002 and received the Konex Platino in 2022. She has made the photo-essays Antártida (Antarctic, 2012), México (2010), El amor (Love, 1992- 2005), Madres e hijas (Mothers and daughters, 1995-1998), Mujeres Presas (Imprisoned women, 1991-1993), Madres Adolescentes (Adolescent mothers, 1988-1990) and Hospital Infante Juvenil (Children's hospital, 1986-1988) & Metrópolis (1988-1999). She is the author of eight books. Her latest publication, Metrópolis (Ediciones Larivière / RM, Madrid, 2021), was selected as the best book at PhotoEspaña 2022 and for the Prix du Livre Arles 2022. She also published Antártida negra (Capital Intelectual, 2017), Antártida negra. The diaries (Tusquets, 2017), Lo Que Se Ve, Fotografías 1992/2005 (What Can Be Seen 1992/2005, published by Capital Intelectual, 2012), La Obra (The Work by Capital Intelectual, 2011), Interior (Capital Intelectual, 2010), Mothers and daughters (La Azotea Editorial, 2003, with the support of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation) and Mujeres presas (Imprisoned Women, Argentine Photographers Collection, 1st edition 2001, 2nd edition 2008).

Her most recent individual exhibitions include Lo Que Se Ve (What Can Be Seen), exhibited for the first time in 2008 in the Cronopios hall at the Centro Cultural Recoleta (Buenos Aires); Amores difíciles (Difficult Loves), in 2010, at Casa de America, Madrid, an official exhibition by PhotoEspaña 2010; Adriana Lestido. Fotografías 1979/2007 (Adriana Lestido. Photographs 1979/2007), exhibited between may and july of 2013 at the National Museum of Fine Arts, Argentina; o Que Se Ve (What Can Be Seen) exhibited in 2014 at Art Gallery, Consulate General of Argentina, New York, USA; and at the Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa; additionally, in 2015 it was exhibited at the Museo Caraffa (Córdoba, Argentina) and at the Museo Nacional de Belas Artes (MNBA), Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. In 2015 she also exhibited the photo-essay Mexico at Rolf Art (Buenos Aires). In 2016 she exhibited Algunas chicas (Some girls) at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Buenos Aires (MACBA); Was zu sehen ist (What Can Be Seen) at the HAUS am KLEISPARK, Berlin. In 2017/2018, in the commemoration of the 20 years of PHE (PhotoEspaña), she exhibited Ellas, Nosotras, Vosotras (Them, us and you) at the Museo de Santa Cruz, Toledo, Convento de la Merced, Ciudad Real, and at the Museo de Guadalajara, Guadalajara. She also exhibited La maldita primavera (Damned spring) at Rolf Art and at the Museo Dionisi, Cordoba. In 2019 she exhibited Algunas chicas (Some girls) at the documentary photography festival Image Singulères, Sète, France. Her series Antártida negra was exhibited for the first time at the Fortabat Foundation, between October 2017 and February 2018, then at the gallery of the Argentine Embassy in Berlin, Germany, in 2019; in 2020 at Casa de América, Madrid, shows PHE20 official.

Her work make part of national and international Institutional & private collections, such as the MNBA - National Museum of Fine Arts from Buenos Aires, MAM - Museum of Modern Art in Buenos Aires; MALBA - Museum of Latin American Art from Buenos Aires; MFAH - Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, USA); Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain and Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris, France), Chateau d'eau (Toulouse, Francia), Hasselblad Center (Göteborg, Sweden), among others.

Adriana Lestido lives and works in Buenos Aires.

Statement

My work stems from necessity. I believe that necessity is the only thing that legitimises what we do. In my case, what released the creative impulse was initially related to the feminine, the maternal, the absence of family, injustice, abandonment, those things that I had to understand to overcome my own limits. While I consider things from my perspective, my life, my history, what I'm interested in is human conflict, the difficulties arising from human relationships.

I also believe that my work is essentially dealing with separation, learning the process of separation. The pain of separation as well as separation as a vital necessity to continue to evolve. In the cycle of all relationships. Of life. Recording what I see does not interest me so much as being able to express what I perceive, and thus detect what is at play behind appearances.

Beyond the circumstances, what gives meaning to my work are the basic emotions. Succeeding in expressing something inherent to the human condition, its pain and beauty. Looking inside. In what is common to our time and other times. Here and everywhere.

It's only when my work reaches an audience that has nothing to do with photography or the image that I feel that, perhaps, I've done things right.

Adriana Lestido

ABOUT ROLF ART

Rolf Art, located in Buenos Aires and founded by Florencia Giordana Braun in 2009, is the only art gallery specialized in technical image in Argentina. Focused on contemporary Latin American visual arts, the gallery features works exploring photographic media and its boundaries. The selection of artworks considers pieces with an inextricable union between critical density and aesthetic value. The curatorial profile challenges the political context & considers the social and economical background of artistic production as a determining factor for art's interpretation. We are committed to a select group of contemporary established Latin American artists, promoting them on a national and international basis. We support their artistic production together with editorial and audiovisual projects.

In order to contribute to the production and appreciation of contemporary art, looking forward to pushing the boundaries of the Latin American visual arts, the gallery develops an important exhibition and educational program. Working alongside leading researchers, curators, and art critics, the gallery organizes exhibitions in collaboration with national and international institutions & photo festivals; leading the way towards a sustained participation in the most important art & photo fairs worldwide; managing the incorporation of Latin American artists in renowned institutions; in addition to multiple private collections; contributing to the legitimation of the visual expressions from the Latin American region worldwide.

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