



**Ouka Leele**

**RocioSantaCruz**<sup>ART</sup>

**ESTAMPA 2026**  
**Stand 5B07**

# Ouka Leele

(Madrid, 1957 - 2022)

Ouka Leele was the artistic pseudonym of Spanish photographer Bárbara Allende Gil de Biedma, one of the most prominent figures in Spanish photography with an international profile. She was also a painter, draughtswoman and poet, and one of the leading creators of the Madrid Movida.

She held her first exhibition in 1979 at the Spectrum Gallery in Barcelona, where she presented the *Peluquería* series, one of her best-known bodies of work. Throughout her career, she exhibited extensively in major museums and institutions, including the Museo del Prado, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía and the MEAC.

In 1987, she participated in the São Paulo Biennial and created the Cibeles installation inspired by the myth of Atalanta and Hippomenes. That same year, the Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo dedicated a retrospective to her work. In 1988, in Paris, she produced large-format Polaroids for the Cartier Foundation in collaboration with the Philippe Model fashion house.

In 2007, she presented *La menina ingrávida* and *Menina liberada*, which were exhibited at the Museo del Prado as part of 12 artistas en el Museo del Prado, curated by Francisco Calvo Serraller. Since 2021, *Menina liberada* has remained on display as part of the museum's permanent collection. In 2008, she held the exhibition *Entre Dos Mundos* at the Iberia Beijing Art Center, which was awarded Best Exhibition of the Year in China.

*Ouka Leele. Inédita* took place in 2008 at the Museo del Traje in Madrid. In 2010, she directed an artistic project with Fine Arts students from the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, culminating in the exhibition *Santa Bárbara Bendita* at La Gallera in Valencia. In 2014, she presented *Un Banquet Cruel: Pour Quoi?* at the Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid.

In 2017, she collaborated with Loewe, which exhibited works from the *Peluquería* series at its Gran Vía store in Madrid.

In 2019, her work was included in *La Movida. Crónica de una agitación. 1978–1984* at Fundación Foto Colectania, co-produced with Les Rencontres d'Arles. She exhibited on several occasions at Les Rencontres d'Arles and, in 2019, one of her works was selected as the image for the poster defining the visual identity of that edition.

In 2021, she presented the exhibition *Ouka Leele. Supernova* at the Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid. In 2023, *El universo de una Estrella* was held, organised by the Real Sociedad Fotográfica de Madrid as part of the PHotoESPAÑA 2023 festival.

In 2025, her work was included in *Chromotherapie. Feel Good Color Photography*, curated by Maurizio Cattelan and Sam Stourdzé at the Villa Medici in Rome.

In 2026, the RocioSantaCruz gallery presented *Ouka Leele. Barcelona 1978–1980*, bringing together works produced during the period when the artist lived in Barcelona. That same year, the exhibition *Mitologías modernas: Ouka Leele & Co.* opened at the Alcalá 31 exhibition hall.

Ouka Leele received numerous awards, including the ÍCARO Award for Visual Arts, granted by Diario 16 (1983); the National Bibliophilia Award (2003) for her work *El Cantar de los Cantares*, published by Editorial Ara; the National Photography Award (2005); and the Silver Medal of the Community of Madrid (2022), among others.

Works from the *Peluquería* series are held, among other institutions, in the permanent collection of the MNCARS, where they occupy a room in its recent exhibition.

Ouka Leele's work is held in numerous national and international collections. In Spain, her works form part of major collections including those of the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid, Fundación La Caixa in Barcelona, Fundación Foto Colectania in Barcelona, the Centro Andaluz de la Fotografía, the Museo de Alcobendas in Madrid, the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Ibiza, the Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo in Madrid, and the Museo Municipal in Madrid. Her work is also held in regional collections such as the Museo al Aire Libre de Ceutí in Murcia, the Centro Municipal de las Artes in Alcorcón (Madrid), and the Fundación Provincial de Cultura in Cádiz. Internationally, her work is present in institutions including the Fondation Cartier in Paris, the Instituto Cervantes in Lisbon, Tabaco Gitanes in Paris, and the Fundación Antonio Pérez de San Clemente in Cuenca.

RocioSantaCruz gallery works exclusively with the photographer's archive.



**Ouka Leele**

*Peluquería* (El Hortelano)

1979 / 2017

Digital print on Hahnemühle paper from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Unique proof produced for Ouka Leele's exhibition at Loewe. Signed by the artist.

29 x 21 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Contact sheet.* (El Hortelano)  
1979

24.1 x 30.5 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Peluquería*  
 1980 / 2008

Digital print on Hahnemühle paper from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Unique proof produced for Ouka Leele's exhibition at Loewe. Signed by the artist.

29 x 21 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Peluquería*  
 1979 / 2017

Digital print on Hahnemühle paper from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Unique proof produced for Ouka Leele's exhibition at Loewe. Signed by the artist.

29 x 21 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Peluquería* (Fellini)  
1979 / 1987

Cibachrome print from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist.

25 x 20 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Contact sheet. Peluquería* (Fellini)  
1979

30.5 x 24.1 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Peluquería*  
1979 / 2008

Black-and-white photograph printed on Hahnemühle paper.  
Signed by the artist.

19,5 x 13.5 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Peluquería*  
1979 / 2008

Black-and-white photograph printed on Hahnemühle paper.  
Signed by the artist.

28 x 20 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Peluquería* (El Hortelano)  
1979 / 2008

Black-and-white photograph printed on Hahnemühle paper. Signed by the artist.

19,5 x 20 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Peluquería* (Fina de la Calle)  
1979 / 2017

Digital print on Hahnemühle paper from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Unique proof produced for Ouka Leele's exhibition at Loewe. Signed by the artist.

29 x 21 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Contact sheet. Peluquería (Fina de la Calle)*  
1979

30.5 x 24.1 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Peluquería* (Rubiales)  
1979

Black-and-white photograph hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Unique work.

24 x 18 cm



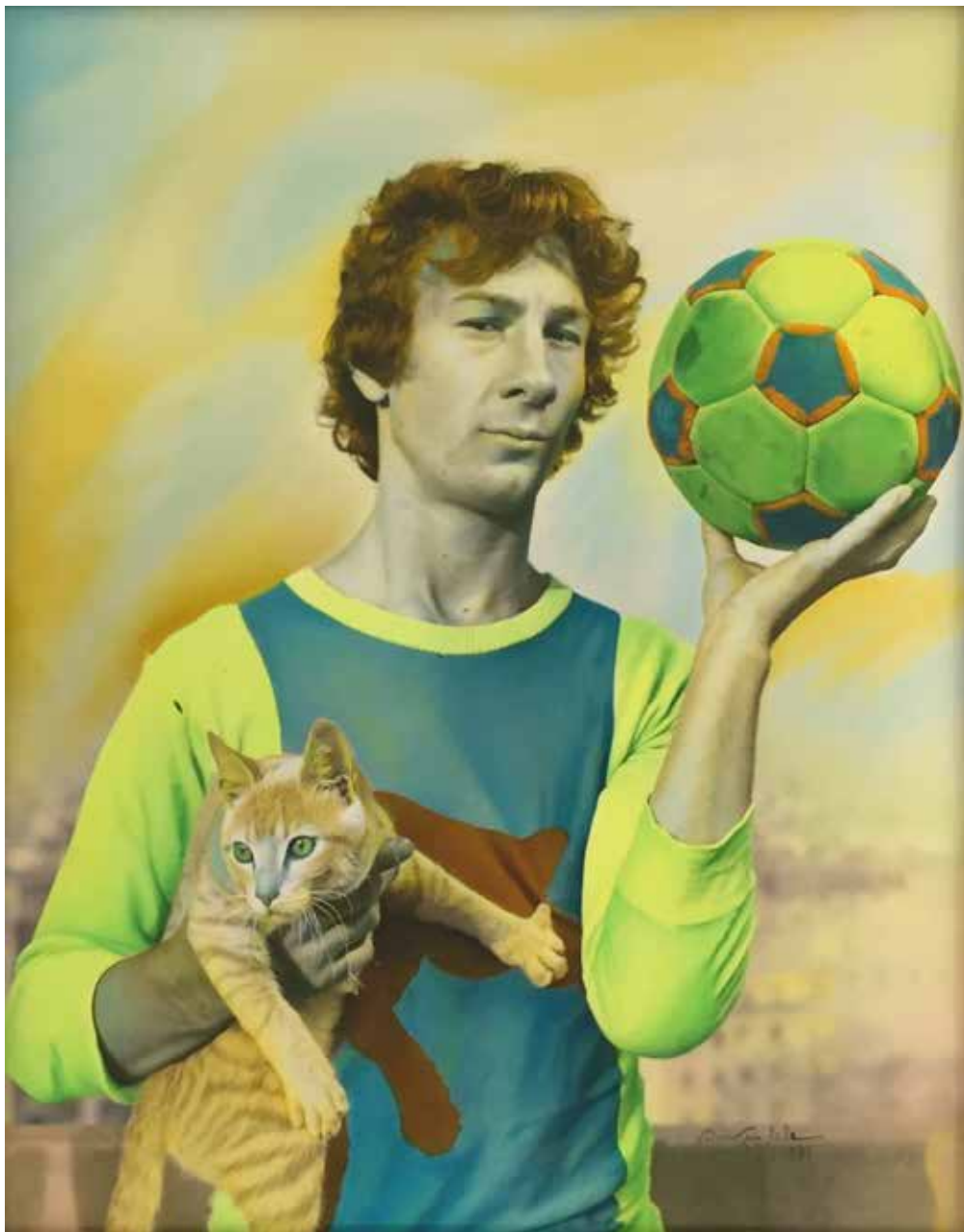
**Ouka Leele**

*Consuelo*

1981 / 2021

Digital print on Hahnemühle paper from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist.

23 x 19.5 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Mi vecino Alfredo*  
1981

Black-and-white photograph hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist. Unique work.

50 x 40 cm



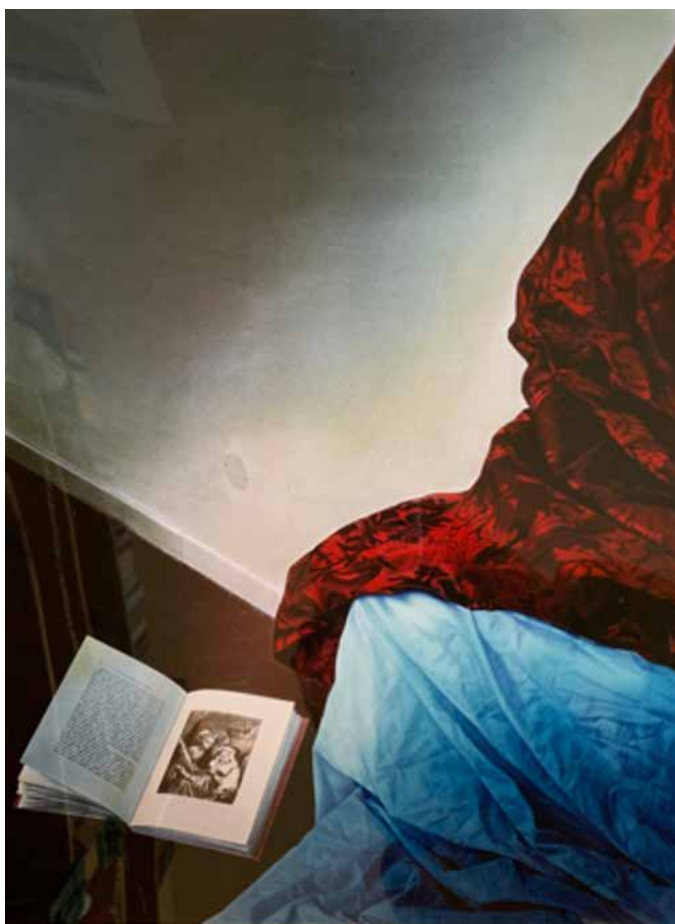
**Ouka Leele**

*Sobre la dialéctica pero en verde chillón*

1982

Cibachrome print from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist.

30 x 29 cm



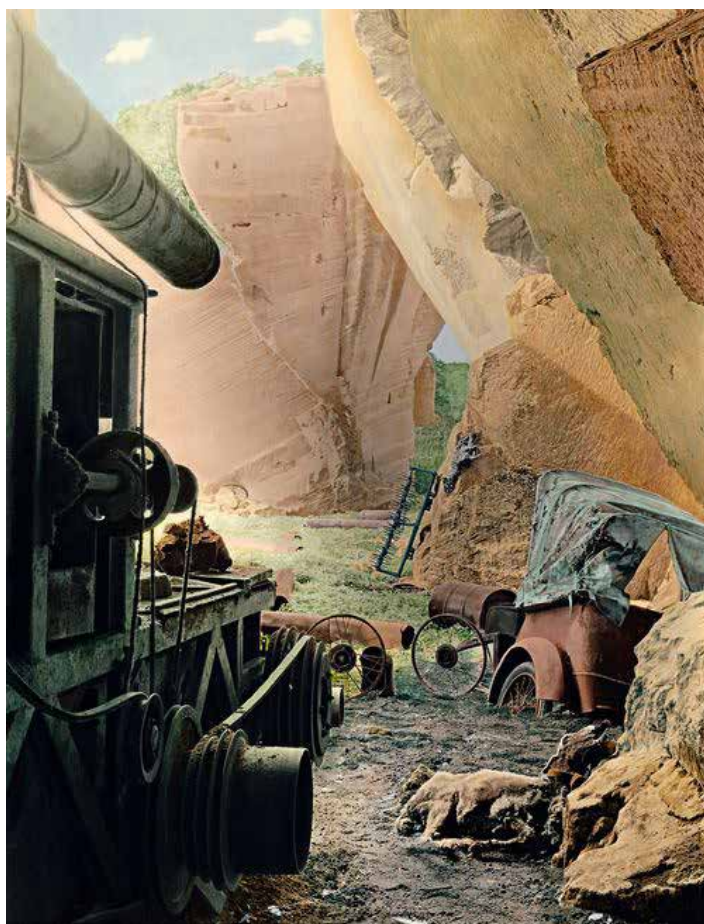
**Ouka Leele**

*La bella durmiente del bosque*

1984

Cibachrome print from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist.

35 x 28 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*La muerte es una llave que abre un cofre lleno de tesoros acumulados*

1987

Cibachrome print from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist.

39 x 29 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Sus miradas me sonríen*  
 1984

Cibachrome print from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist.

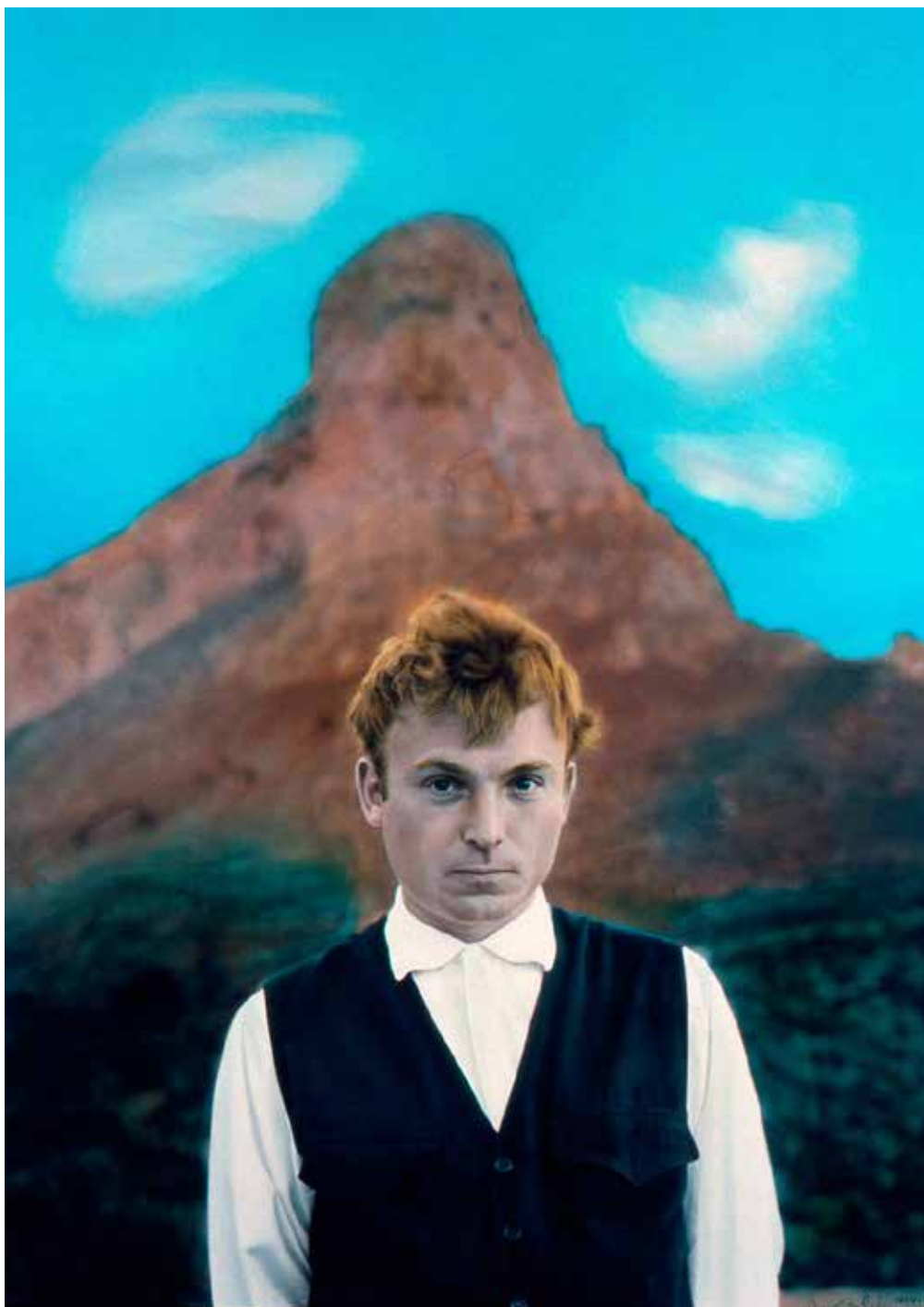
18 x 24 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*El gimnasio*  
 1986

Cibachrome print from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist.

18 x 25 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Miquel Barceló*  
1986 / 1987

Cibachrome print from the original hand-painted in watercolour by the artist.  
Signed by the artist.

25 x 18 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*La Alegría*  
1995

Vintage. Black-and-white photograph hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist. Unique work.

50 x 40 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*¿Dónde te escondiste amada?*  
1998

Vintage. Black-and-white photograph hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist. Unique work.

49 x 33 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Fuerza*  
1998

Vintage. Black-and-white photograph hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist. Unique work.

38 x 21.5 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Carpanta*  
1999

Vintage. Black-and-white photograph hand-painted in watercolour by the artist. Signed by the artist. Unique work.

29.5 x 19.5 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Como una ondina de bañera*  
 1986

Gelatin silver print on baryta paper. Developed and signed by the artist.

30 x 23 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Hermanas*  
 1982 / 1983

Gelatin silver print on baryta paper. Developed and signed by the artist.

23 x 23 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Sin título* (Xavier Olivé)  
 1979

Gelatin silver print on baryta paper. Developed and signed by the artist.

20 x 20 cm



**Ouka Leele**  
*Antes (Ángela and Choni)*  
 1982

Gelatin silver print on baryta paper. Developed and signed by the artist.

23 x 22 cm

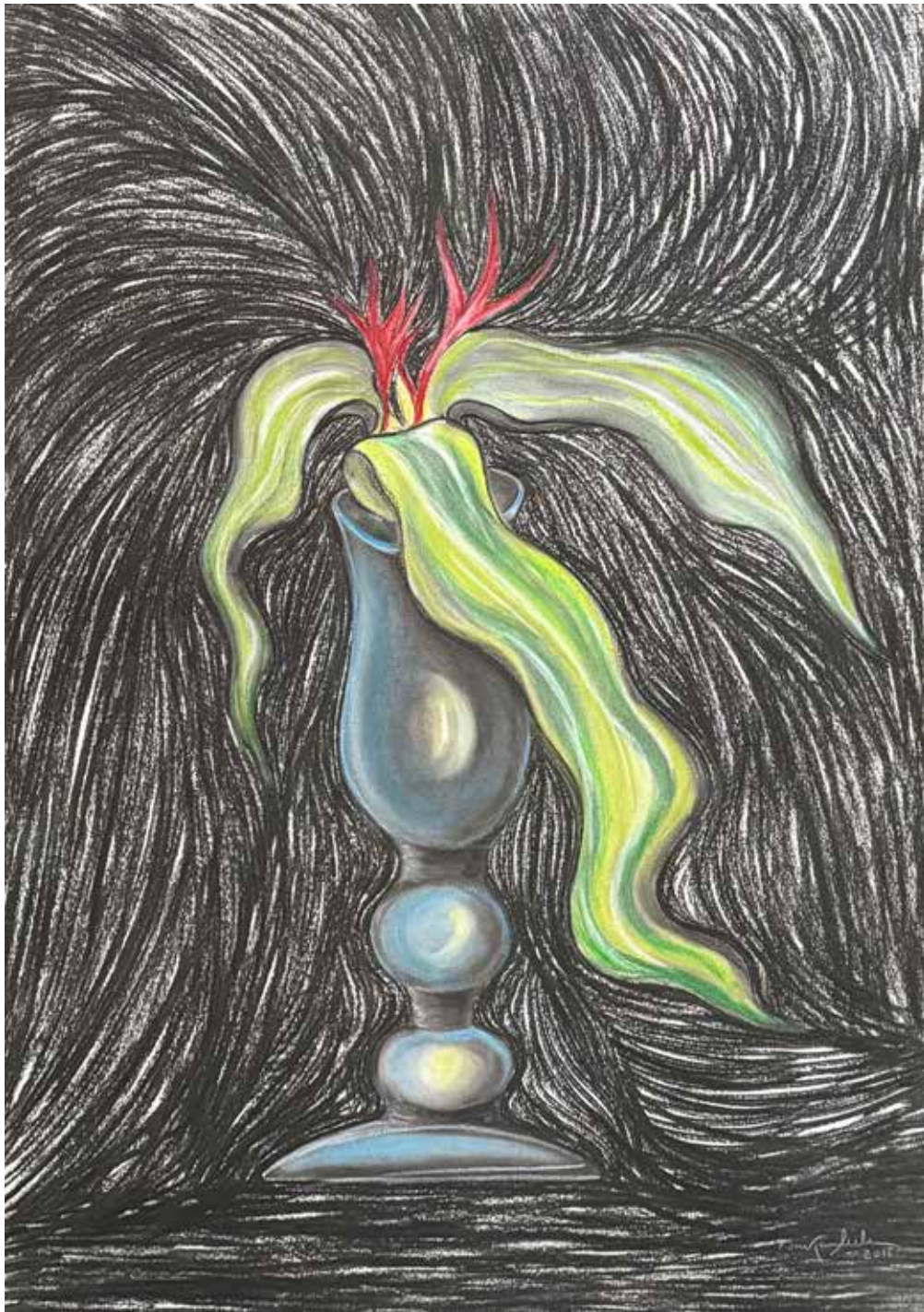


**Ouka Leele**

*Contact sheet. Hermanas*

1982 / 1983

24.1 x 30.5 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Soy copa florecida*

2018

Carboncillo, pastel y acuarela

100 x 70 cm

**RocioSantaCruz<sup>ART</sup>**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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