



**Ouka Leele**, born in Madrid in 1957, is a Spanish photographer whose real name is Barbara Allende Gil de Biedma. Even though she wanted to be a painter, she discovered photography as a medium to express her natural and intensive artistic sensitivity.

It is in the 1980s in Madrid during the nation's "Movida" movement when she showed her interest in a variety of artistic disciplines such as drawing, serigraphy, painting and literature resulting in a series of photos labelled as "icons of her time".

In her photography one recognizes the references to the ancient civilizations, mythological stories, literature and intimate worlds of family and friends placed in different settings including portraits and self-portraits. Her unedited photos that are often additionally hand painted is an attempt to show human nature and to reveal the connections between life, emotions and its translations in art language.

She was awarded the 2004 Culture Prize by the Community of Madrid and the 2005 National Photography Award and her works can be found in a number of collections, including Collection Arco (Madrid), Foundation Cartier (Paris), Foundation La Caixa (Barcelona), Cervantes Institute (Lisbon), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Madrid), Tabaco Gitanes (Paris).

In 2019, Ouka Leele is nominated for the Prix de la Photo Madame Figaro Arles, thanks to her pictures of "La Movida," a cultural movement at the beginning of the 80s in Madrid, Spain.

At PARIS PHOTO 2021 we'll be able to see the complete unseen collection of 21 big format Polaroids (50x60 cm) that she took due to a commission from the Cartier Foundation in 1988. We will also show some of her most iconic works such as "Peluquería" and "El beso".

Ouka Leele has been one of the women artists selected by Paris Photo and the Ministry of Culture to be part of **Elles x Paris** section.

**RocioSantaCruz**

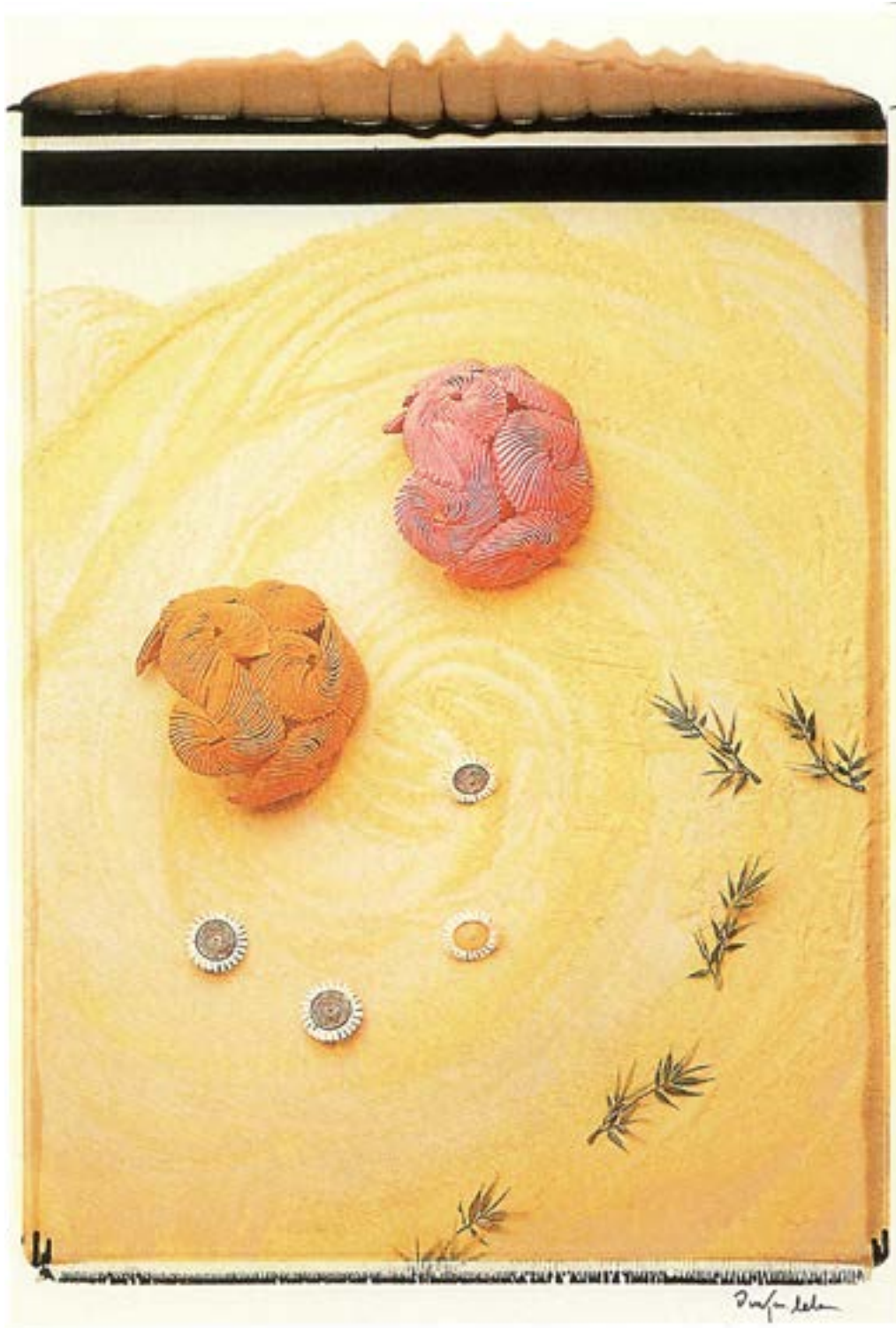
**Ouka Leele**



**Ouka Leele**

*Flamenco,*  
1988

Original Polaroid produced during the Cartier Foundation Commission  
70 x 55 cm

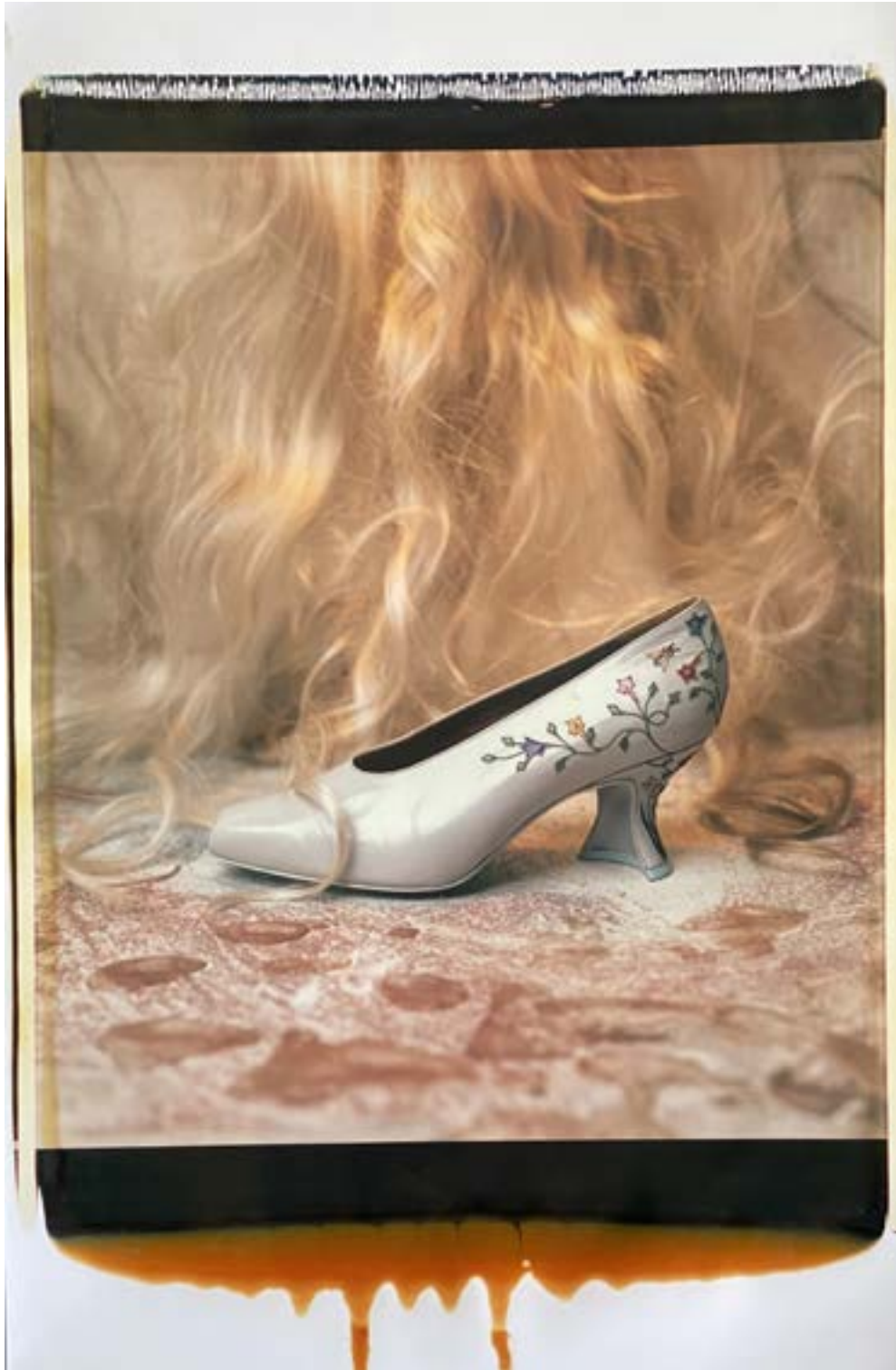


**Ouka Leele**

*Espiralado*, 1988

Original Polaroid produced during the Cartier Foundation Commission

70 x 55 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Sin título (14)*, 1988

Original Polaroid produced during the Cartier Foundation Commission

70 x 55 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*The magician, 1988*

Original Polaroid produced during the Cartier Foundation Commission  
70 x 55 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Sin título (11)*, 1988

Original Polaroid produced during the Cartier Foundation Commission

70 x 55 cm

*Selected work in Paris Photo 2020*

**RocioSantaCruz**

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**Ouka Leele**  
*La sensibilidad*, 1995  
Cibachrome  
60 x 50 cm



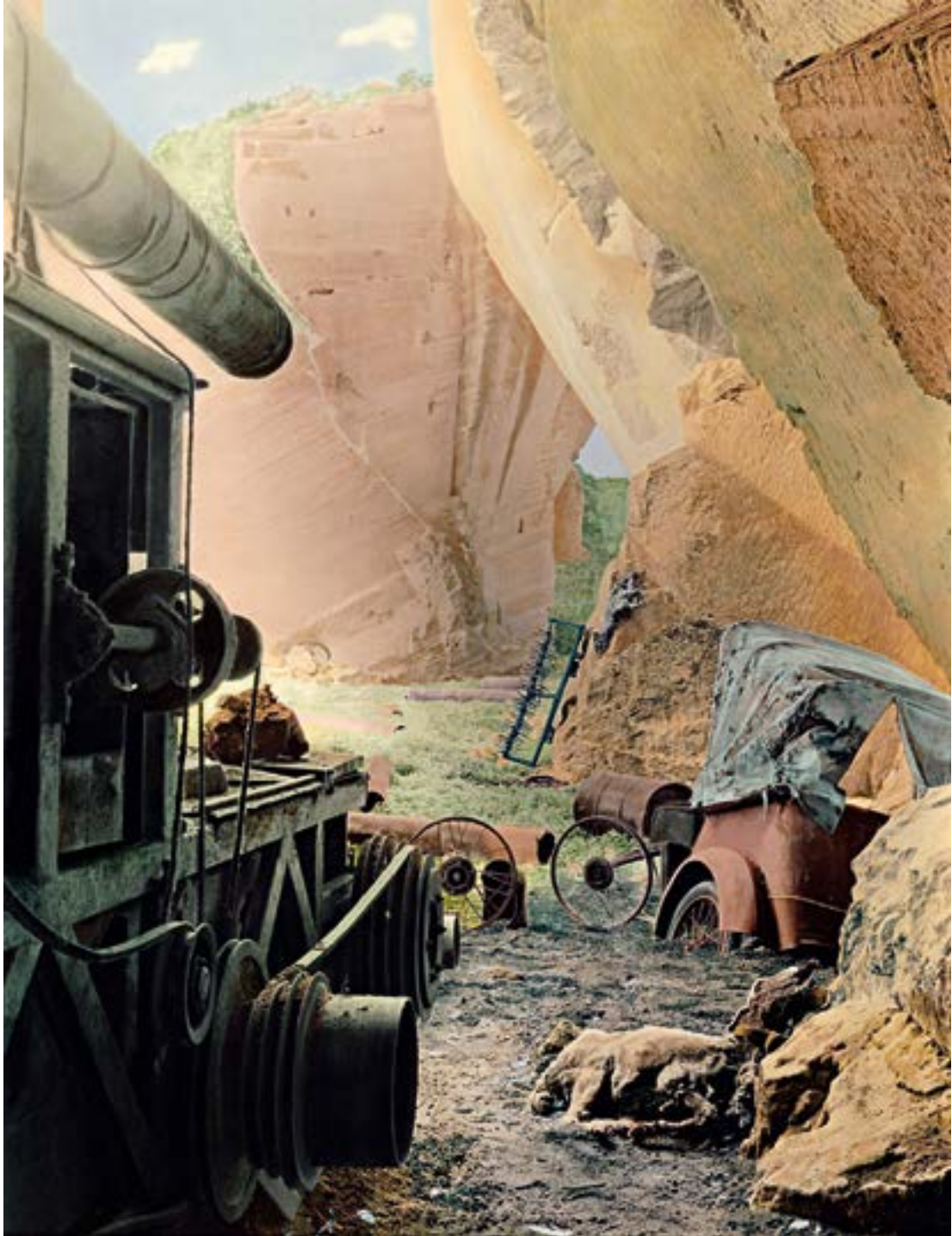
**Ouka Leele**

*La bella durmiente del bosque*, 1984

Cibachrome

35 x 28 cm





**Ouka Leele**

*La muerte es una llave que abre un cofre lleno de tesoros acumulados, 1987*

Cibachrome

39 x 29 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Mi perrita es ternura viva, 1986*

Cibachrome

30 x 30 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Semilla*, 1993

Original black and white Cibachrome painted by the artist

100 x 80 cm



**Ouka Leele**

*Me levanto por la mañana, hay un gran charco en mi casa, 1984*

Digital print on Hahnemühle paper from original hand-painted watercolour

Ed. 15

100 x 80 cm

## OUKA LEELE

(1957, Madrid, Spain)

### AWARDS

- 2012** National Photography Award, Piedad Isla.  
**2012** Silver medal of Madrid Community.  
**2010** Isabel Ferrer Award ALFA Y OMEGA AWARD for Best Documentary Feature Film  
**2008** Silver Medal of Honor in XI BIENAL INTERNACIONAL DE EL CAIRO  
**2005** Spanish National Photography Award. This lead her to take up Photography again.  
**2004** Cultural Award of Madrid.  
**2003** Spanish National Award of Bibliofilia (2003) for "El Cantar de los Cantares"

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018** ARCOmadrid  
**2016** ARCOmadrid, Museo del Prado.  
Viajeros de mi Galaxia, Galería Fernández-Braso.  
Photo Shanghai art fair, Galería Art+Shanghai.  
Conjunto escultórico 'De higos a brevas' in La Real Fábrica de Cristales de La Granja de San Ildefonso, Spain.  
**2015** A donde la luz me lleve, Conde Duque, Madrid, Spain.  
**2014** La Utopía Transgresora, Bienal de Fotografía de Moscú.  
Un Banquete Cruel. PourQuoi? Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid, Spain.  
**2013** Proyecto "Miradas de Asturias"; Fundación Masaveu, Oviedo, Spain. Itinerancia de "La Utopía Transgresora" por Sudamérica.  
**2012** OUKA LEELE "MÍSTICA LUZ EN EL SILENCIO" CASYC (Obra Social Caja Cantabria), Santander, Spain  
**2011** Mi circo, Galería Alexandra Irigoyen, Madrid.  
**2010** Santa Bárbara Bendita, La Gallera de Valencia  
**2009** Delirante juventud de Ouka Leele, Shanghai, China.  
**2008** Ouka Leele Inédita, Museo del Traje, Madrid, Spain.  
Entre dos mundos, Centro de Arte Iberia Beijing, China  
2007 Diseña la escenografía y el vestuario para la ópera "Curlew River" de Britten  
**2004** Pulpo's Boulevard, Comunidad de Madrid, Spain  
**1988** Mural "Mi jardín metafísico" Ceuta, Spain.  
Scènes de mode: Ouka Leele pour Philippe Model, Fondation Cartier, Paris.  
**1987** Bienal de Sao Paulo.  
Montaje de La Cibeles representando el mito de Atalanta e Hipómenes.  
Retrospective exhibition at Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo.

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS (Selected)

- 2019** La Movida, Crònica d'una agitació. 1978 - 1988, Foto Colectania, Barcelona, Spain.  
La Movida, Chronique d'une agitation, 1978 - 1988, Rencontres d'Arles, France  
**2012** Del futuro al pasado, El Museo del Prado visto por los artistas españoles contemporáneos, IVAM, Valencia, Spain.  
**2011** Art Barter Madrid, Festival Dcode, Madrid, Spain  
2007 12 artistas en el Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain

### FILMS

- 2012** Pou quoi?  
2011 La mirada de Ouka Leele

### PUBLICATIONS

- 2017** Axis Mundi y otros relatos, Editorial Huerga y Fierro  
**2015** En este jardín no matarás, Editorial Huerga y Fierro  
**2014** Agua de la añoranza, Editorial Huerga y Fierro  
**2013** La llave de la jaula, Editorial Huerga y Fierro  
**2011** Pan de Verbo, Editorial Huerga y Fierro  
**2009** Este libro arde entre mis manos, Editorial Huerga  
**2009** De la embriaguez desnuda, Ed. sial  
**1984** Naturaleza viva Naturaleza muerta, Ed. Arnao Piel, Galería Sen  
Ella sabe que es una princesa, Galería Sen Versos y dibujos, Cuadernos del Hoci-noco. Fundación Antonio Pérez de Cuenca Poesía en carne viva, Ed. Atlantis  
FLORALEZA, poemas y serigrafías. Ahora ediciones

### COLLECTIONS

- Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid  
Fundación La Caixa, Barcelona  
Centre de la Vieille Charité, Marsella  
Centro Andaluz de la Fotografía  
Colección Arco, Madrid  
Fondation Cartier, París  
Instituto Cervantes, Lisboa  
Museo al Aire Libre de Ceutí, Murcia  
Museo de Alcobendas, Madrid  
Centro Municipal de las Artes, Alcorcón, Madrid  
Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Ibiza  
Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo, Madrid  
Museo Municipal, Madrid  
Tabaco Gitanes, París  
Fundación Provincial de Cultura, Cádiz  
Fundación Antonio Pérez de San Clemente, Cuenca.