



RocioSantaCruz^{ART}

Ouka Leele

Artist's synopsis

Ouka Leele (Madrid, Spain, 1957 - Madrid, Spain, 2022)

Ouka Leele was a Spanish photographer whose real name was Bárbara 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 country's "Movida" movement she showed 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 work she paid homage to references linked to the ancient civilizations, mythological stories, literature and the intimate worlds of family and friends placed in different settings including portraits and self-portraits. Her unedited photos that are often additionally hand painted were an attempt to show human nature and to reveal the connections between life, emotions and its translations in artistic expression.

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 was nominated for the Prix de la Photo Madame Figaro Arles, thanks to her photographs of "La Movida", the cultural movement that rebelled against the Francoist morals which developed in Madrid in the early 80s. In 2021 Ouka Leele was one of the women artists selected by Paris Photo and the Ministry of Culture to be part of the Elles x Paris section. In 2023, during the PHotoESPAÑA Festival, the Real Sociedad Fotográfica organized the exhibition "El universo de una estrella", an exhibition that gathered the most interesting works of his production as a posthumous tribute.



Ouka Leele

Hairdressing, "Vynils" / Peluqueria, "Vinilos"
1979

Original black and white photograph hand painted with watercolors
18 x 24 cm
Unique photography signed by the artist
Author's print



Ouka Leele

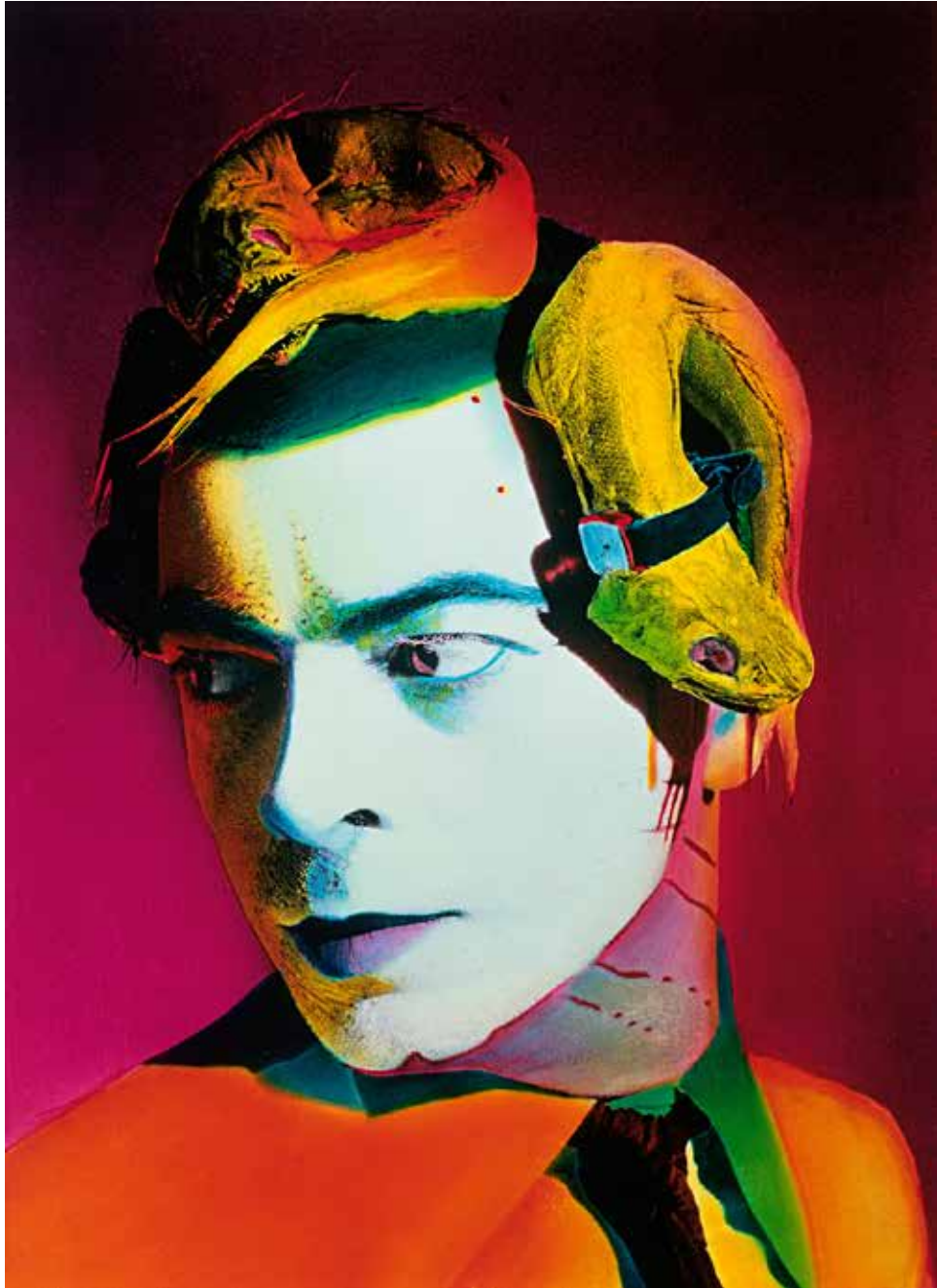
Hairdressing / Peluqueria
1979 / 2008

Print on Hahnemühle paper from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist

30 x 40 cm

Unique artist's proof for the collaborative exhibition between Loewe and Ouka Leele

Signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Hairdressing / Peluqueria
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Ouka Leele

Miquel / Miquel
1986/2003

Silver chlorobromide on baryta paper

37,5 x 25,5 cm

Unique copy for the exhibition "Ouka Leele in black and white" (2003)



Ouka Leele

Self-portrait (hairdressing seed) / Autorretrato (semilla peluquería)
1978

Silver chlorobromide on baryta paper
37 x 37 cm

Unique copy for the exhibition "Ouka Leele in black and white" (2003)



Ouka Leele

Your three majesties / Sus tres majestades
1986/2003

Black and white photograph printed on Hanehmühle cotton paper.
18 x 13 cm

Unique copy for the exhibition "Ouka Leele in black and white" (2003)
Signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Begoña / Begoña

1986

Silver chlorobromide on baryta paper

48 x 48 cm

Unique copy for the exhibition "Ouka Leele in black and white" (2003)



Ouka Leele

Continent / Continente
1985

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 30 x 19 cm. / Photography: 24 x 16 cm.
Vintage copy from the 1985
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Sisters / Hermanas

1983

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 30 x 40 cm. / Photography: 23 x 23 cm.
Vintage copy from the 1983
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Like a bathub Ondina / Como una ondina de bañera
1986

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 30 x 40 cm. / Photography: 30 x 23 cm.
Vintage copy from 1986
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Untitled / Sin título

1982

Black and white photography on baryta paper

Paper: 30 x 24 cm. / Photography: 20 x 20 cm.

Vintage copy from the 1982

Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Fertile landscape / Paysaje fértil
1983

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 30 x 40 cm. / Photography: 28 x 23 cm.
Vintage copy from 1983
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Untitled / Sin título
1984

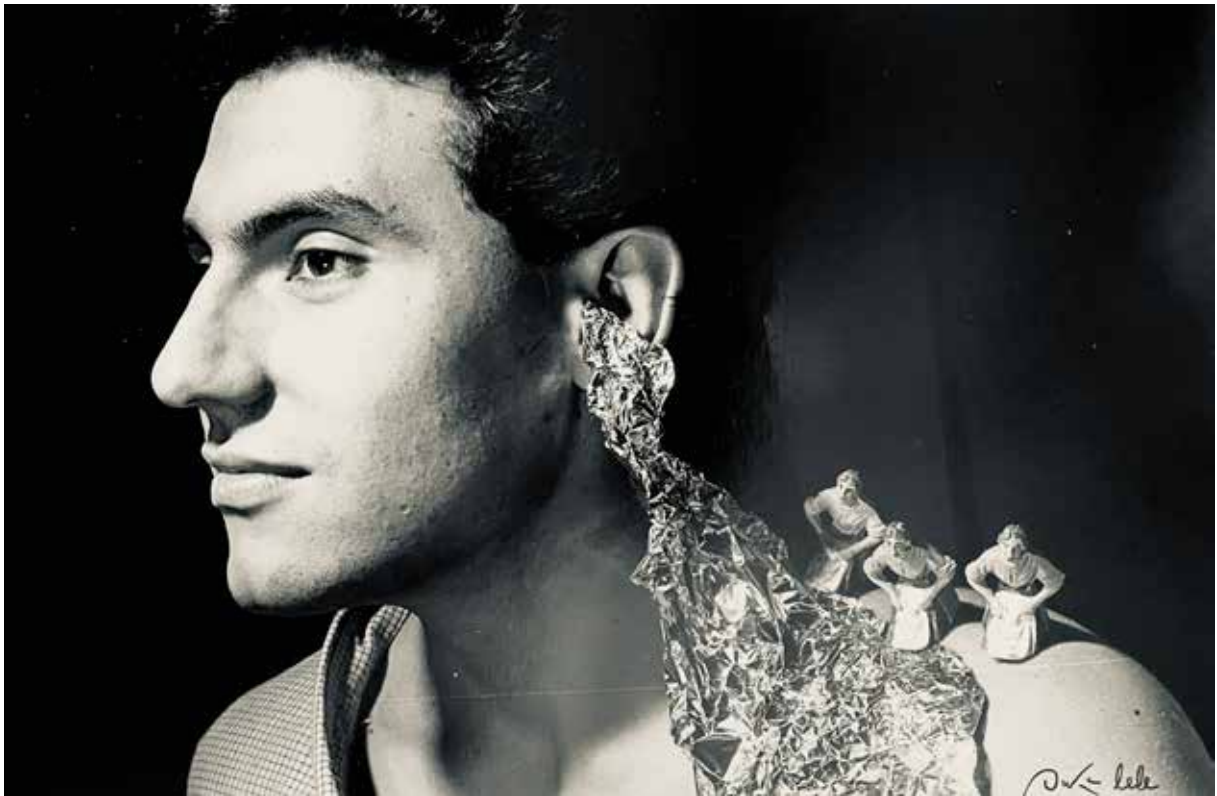
Photography on baryta paper
Paper: 40 x 30 cm. / Photography: 25 x 16 cm.
Vintage copy from 1984
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Untitled / Sin título
1984

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 40 x 30 cm. / Photography: 26 x 21 cm.
Vintage copy from 1984
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Merry Christmas! / ¡Feliz Navidad!
1984

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 30 x 40 cm. / Photography: 16 x 25 cm.
Vintage copy from 1984
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Before (Ángela y Choni) / Antes (Ángela y Choni)
1982

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 24 x 24 cm. / Photography: 23 x 22 cm.
Vintage copy from 1982
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Untitled (Carmen Maura) / Sin título (Carmen Maura)
1985

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 26 x 26 cm. / Photography: 25 x 20 cm.
Vintage copy from 1985
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

The Castafire's jewel / La joya de la Castafire
1981

Black and white photography on baryta paper
Paper: 36 x 28 cm. / Photography: 31 x 24 cm.
Vintage copy from 1981
Author's print signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Alberto García Álix and Ana Curra / Alberto García Álix y Ana Curra
1985/2003

Black and white print on Hahnemühle paper
25 x 30 cm

Print for the exhibition "Ouka Leele in black and white" (2003)



Ouka Leele

Rosy receiving the light / Rosy recibiendo la luz
1987/2003

Black and white print on Hahnemühle paper
20 x 20 cm
Print for the exhibition "Ouka Leele in black and white" (2003)



Ouka Leele

Bibi Andersen / Bibi Andersen
1986/2003

Black and white print on Hahnemühle paper
30 x 25 cm.
Print for the exhibition "Ouka Leele in black and white" (2003)



Ouka Leele

A working class hero / A working class hero
1985/2003

Black and white print on Hahnemühle paper
30 x 30 cm
Print for the exhibition "Ouka Leele in black and white" (2003)



Ouka Leele
Madrid / Madrid
1985/2002

Print on Hahnemühle paper from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
30,5 x 23,5 cm
Signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

I wake up in the morning and there's a big puddle in my house / Me levanto por la mañana, hay un gran charco en mi casa
1984/2004

Print on Hahnemühle paper from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
28 x 20 cm
Signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

My friend Chuslan / Mi amiga Chuslan
2006

Print on Hahnemühle paper from a black and white photograph hand-painted on
watercolour by the artist
40 x 30 cm



Ouka Leele

Spiral of solidarity / Espiral de solidaridad
2007

Print on Hahnemühle paper
30 x 40 cm.



Ouka Leele

Rappelle-toi Barbará / Rappelle-toi Barbará
1987

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
20 x 28 cm.

Vintage print from 1987 signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Tree of hope, stand firm / Árbol de la esperanza mantente firme
1987/2002

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist

34 x 25 cm.

Signed by the artist

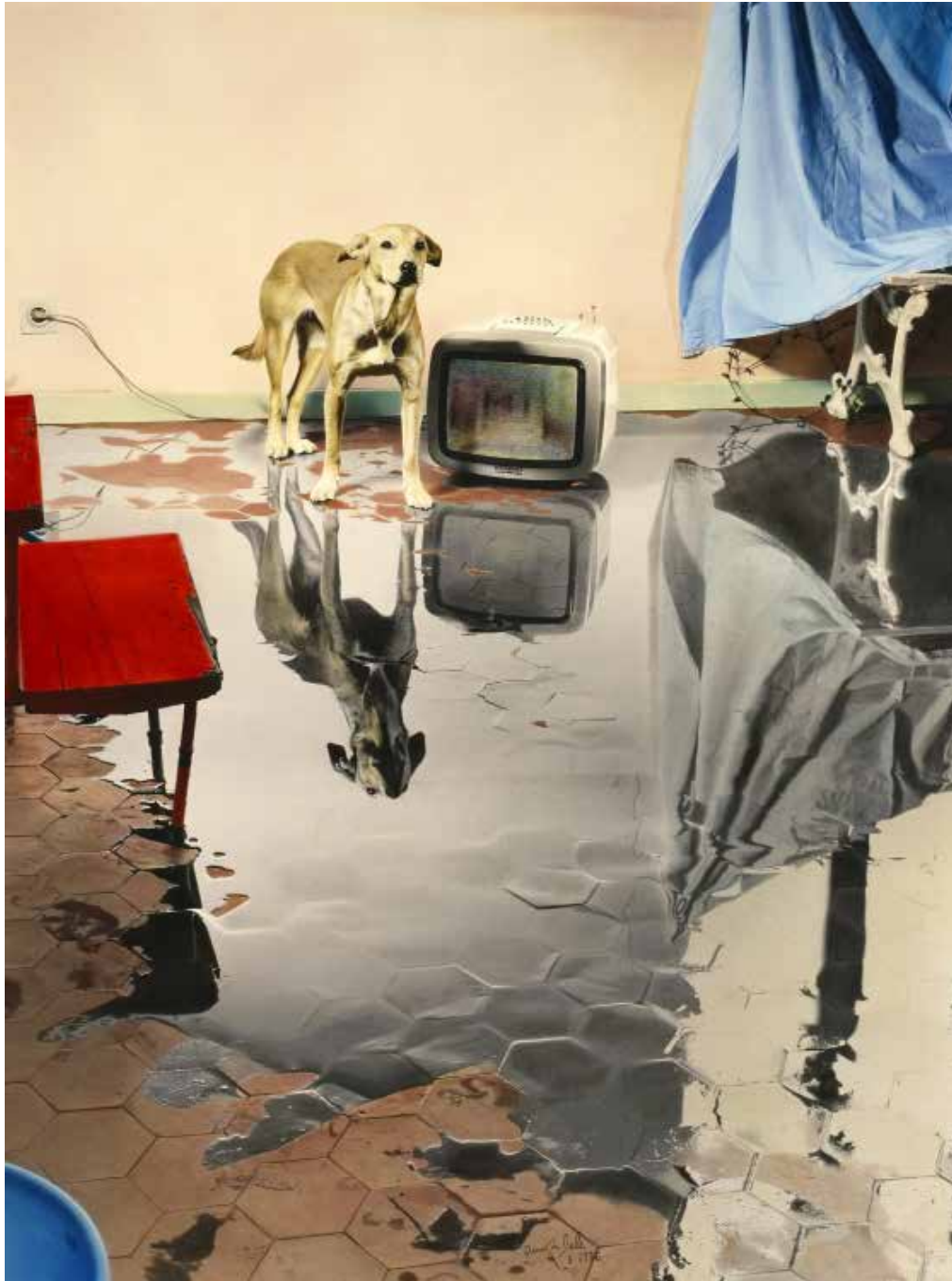


Ouka Leele

Where are you going to go, my love, with the air and the sea bottled up? / ¿Dónde vas amor mío, con el aire en un vaso y el mar en un vidrio?
1987

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
28 x 38 cm.

Vintage print from 1987 signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

I wake up in the morning and there's a big puddle in my house / Me levanto por la mañana, hay un gran charco en mi casa
1984/2019

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
55 x 40 cm.
Signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

My dog is living tenderness / Mi perrita es ternura viva
1986

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
30 x 30 cm.

Vintage print from 1986 signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Make-Up Campaign / Campaña Make-Up

1988

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour
by the artist

25 x 19 cm.

Vintage print from 1988 signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Living nature, still life / Naturaleza viva, naturaleza muerta
1985

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
60 x 50 cm.

Vintage print from 1985 signed by the artist



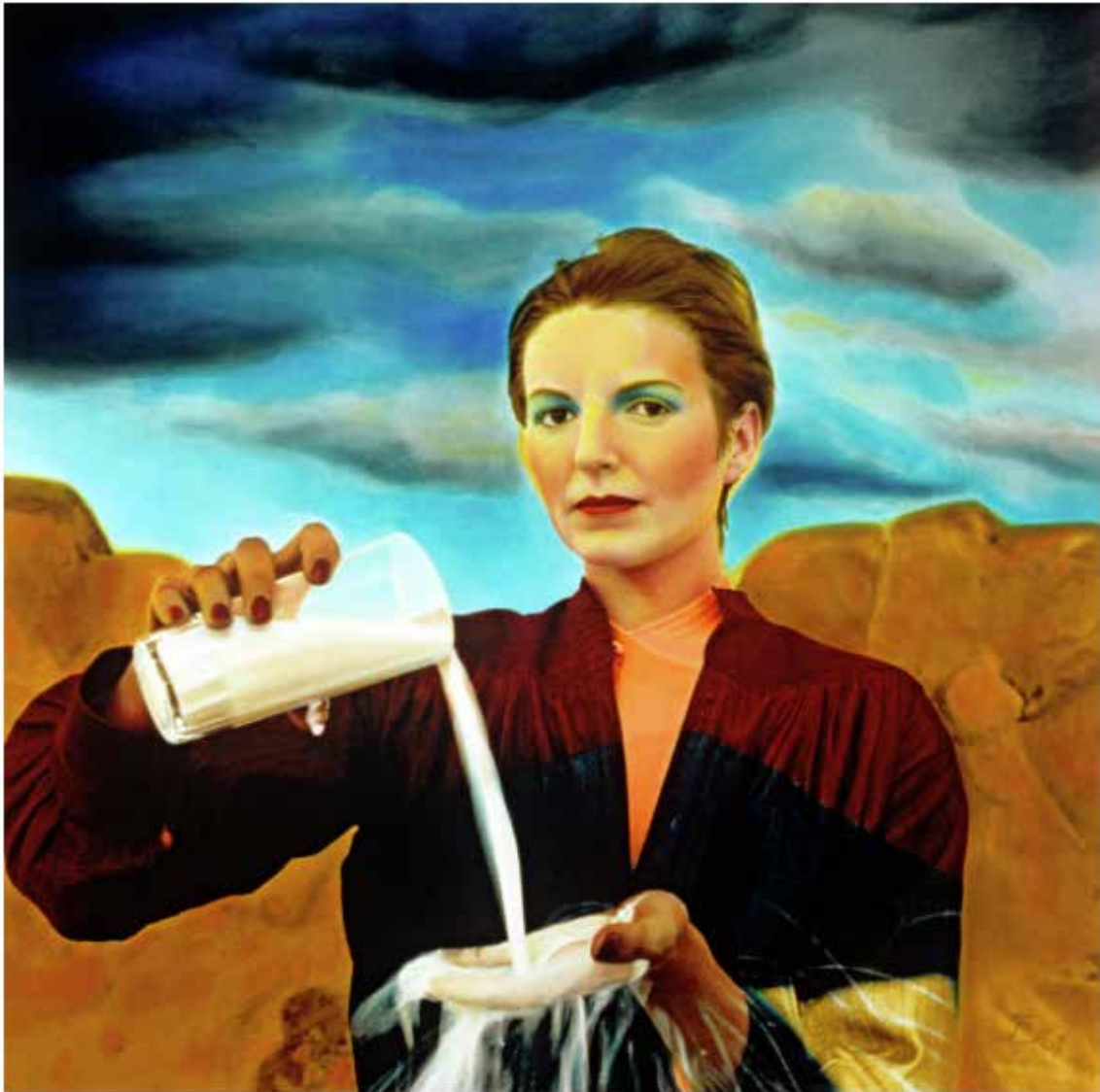
Ouka Leele

Sleeping Beauty of the Forest / La bella durmiente del bosque
1984

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist

35 x 28 cm.

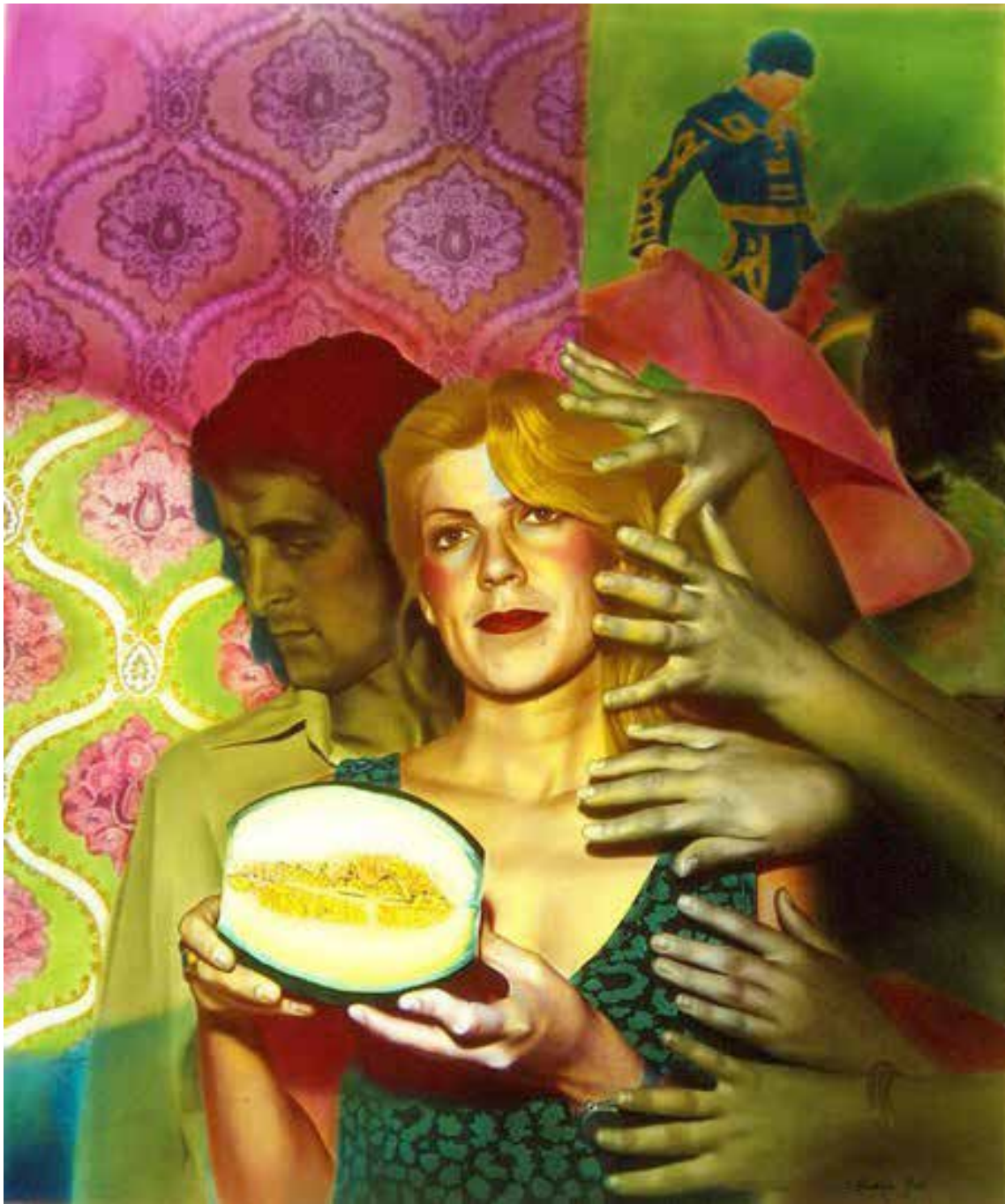
Vintage print from 1984 signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Portrait of the Bride / Retrato de la Novia
1983

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
29 x 29 cm.
Vintage print from 1983 signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Manolo and Rosa / Manolo y Rosa
1981

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
60 x 50 cm.

Vintage print from 1981 signed by the artist



Ouka Leele

Where does the Orchid come from? / ¿De donde sale la Orquídea?
1999

Cibachrome copy from a black and white photograph hand-painted on watercolour by the artist
60 x 39 cm.
Vintage print from 1999 signed by the artist

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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