

HOUSTON (DECEMBER 6, 2022) — Foto Relevance is pleased to announce *Somos Millones*, a solo exhibition of works by Karen Navarro. *Somos Millones* (we are millions) is a visual expression of identity through the artist's uniquely deconstructed and reconstructed portraits of first, second and third generation American immigrants. Navarro's mixed-media works investigate a sense of belonging as influenced by race, migration, and the artist's own indigenous identity. By exploring her ancestral culture, and her experience as an American immigrant, she creates connections between a vast constellation of identities in the present time — connections which reinforce a vision of a more just future. Navarro utilizes crowdsourced skin tones, data, and language to craft deeply resonant portraits and experiential installations, inviting the viewer to see the world through her gaze. *Somos Millones* will be on view at Foto Relevance from January 13 through February 25, 2023.



Karen Navarro, *Despojo*, 2022



Karen Navarro with *Untitled (fragmentos)*, 2021

"Navarro's work elevates the recomposition of photographic and textual fragments. It is only through fractured narratives that history—both specific and general, personal and global, historic and contemporary—can be recognized as malleable and redirectable. This layered nature of Navarro's material and conceptual choices is evident in her photo-adjacent work, which bridges image with text and, in her work on view at Foto Relevance, light."

—Patricia Restrepo, Assistant Curator, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Karen Navarro is an Argentinian-born multidisciplinary artist currently living and working in Houston. Navarro works on a diverse array of mediums that include photography, collage, the use of text and sculpture. Her image-based work and multimedia practice investigate the intersections of identity, representation, race, and belonging in reference to her migrant experience, her Indigenous identity and the history of colonization and its influence. Her constructed portraits are known for pushing the boundaries of traditional photography and the use of color. Navarro has won numerous awards and grants for her mixed-media photography, among them the Artadia Fellowship, the Top Ten Lensculture Critics' Choice Award, and the HCP Beth Block Honoraria, and has been shortlisted for several more, including the Photo London Emerging Photographer of the Year Award and The Royal Photographic Society, IPE 163. Her work has been exhibited in the US and abroad. Selected shows include Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH), USA; Galerija Upuluh, Zagreb, Croatia; Holocaust Museum Houston, USA; Artpace, San Antonio, USA; Melkweg Expo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Houston Center for Photography, Houston, USA; and Museo de la Reconquista, Tigre, Argentina. Navarro's work has been featured in numerous publications, including ARTnews, The Guardian, Observer, Rolling Stone Italia, and Photo Vogue Festival Italia.

ABOUT FOTO RELEVANCE:

Since 2016, Foto Relevance cofounders Geoffrey C. Koslov and Bryn Larsen have focused on the exhibition and acquisition of museum-quality, contemporary fine art photography and photography-based work. Joined by Suzanne Zeller in 2019 who currently leads the program as Assistant Director, Foto Relevance is dedicated to providing a platform for an innovative selection of American and international photographic artists pushing the boundaries of photography. In addition to promoting the work of artists, Foto Relevance provides guidance, educating individual collectors and corporations in the acquisition and sale of art. Foto Relevance is a member of the Houston Art Gallery Association (HAGA). The gallery is located in the historic Museum District in Houston, Texas in close proximity to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Menil Collection, and the Houston Center for Photography.

Foto Relevance is currently open for walk-in hours Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 am - 5 pm, or by appointment. This is subject to change as we stay current with local COVID-related advisories. Please call (713) 505-1499 or email info@fotorelevance.com for press and other inquiries.