

CASA ESCUELA

BROKEN BONES & ANGEL DUST

Janet Levy

November 9, 2022 – February 13, 2023

Open to the public by appointment only.

Private view - November 8, 12-7 pm RSVP needed

Exhibition Event - December 1st, 6-9 pm. RSVP needed

Merida, Yucatan, Mexico - Casa Escuela is pleased to present *Broken Bones & Angel Dust* a solo exhibition by Janet Levy. An investigation into the Mayan culture exploring themes of sexual desire, suppression and sacrifice incorporating storytelling and mythology. Works on view are new sculptures and sculptural installations created while in her two-month residency in Casa Escuela.

In the large room the artist arranges six stone sculptures and a sculptural installation. For *Goddess of the Moon*, Levy leaves an unpolished portion of the stone exposed, and *Caught Between Two*, a two-piece sculpture references the tension in the space between. These two works are created from the local limestone Crema Maya. For the three *Heart Beats*, she has carved onyx that rests on a red basalt base, using double entendre in her works. *Lay Me Down*, a cut onyx stone with five limestone pieces protruding or penetrating from within lays on a stone alter, she conceptualize a sexual act or a body offered for sacrifice. The installation *Taken to Heart* evokes a strong sense of emotion and creates a sensual dialogue between the various materials sisal, limestone, onyx, and shells.

In the small exhibition room Levy shows a site specific hanging sculpture, *Broken Bones & Angel Dust*. Utilizing the existing hammock hooks, she hangs 206 pieces (the number of bones in a human skeleton) from sisal rope and cord. Suggesting an abstract female body laying in a hammock with her legs open wide. She touches on themes of sexual desires, vulnerability and forced actions.

Collectively Levy's work embraces her ongoing themes of the external and internal worlds while referencing a force of nature. Evolving with each body of work into the next, she continues to explore the enduring focus within her practice to make the invisible visible.

About the artist:

Janet Levy (b. 1959, Los Angeles, CA) Lives and works in Los Angeles, Mexico City, Zurich. Levy attended the School of Visual Arts, New York and School for Design in Basel for Sculpture. She has been awarded the Artists' Fellowship grant, FUKA-Fonds, and the Arts Council Grant, Obwalden. Levy has participated in exhibitions in the USA, Mexico, France, England and Switzerland. In conjunction with her Ace Hotel residency and During Desert X Palm, Springs 2019, she presented her project

Love Looks Like Fire, a site-specific sculptural installation *Ring of Fire* and book *Love Looks Like Fire*.

Levy's first Mexican solo exhibition *Butterfly Double*, 2018 was at Museo de Geologia, UNAM, Mexico City. She has curated and presented work in *Fire Ladders*, 2020, Museo de Geologia, UNAM, Mexico City and *Cry Me A River*, 2014, Prospect.3+, New Orleans. Recently she has completed three residencies with solo exhibitions, *Rapture Bound*, 2022, Anchor Studio in Newlyn UK and *Pecked*, 2021, SWB Experimenthaus, Zurich.

Currently on view, *Broken Bones & Angel Dust* at Casa Escuela, Merida.

About Casa Escuela:

Casa Escuela is a multi-disciplinary artist residency based in Merida, Yucatan. Sited in a former schoolhouse, the residency hosts artists, creatives, chefs, and wellness experts throughout the year for inspiration in their own practices as well as unique shared experiences among the local community. Co-founded by Monica Calderon, a Mexican designer based in Los Angeles, and her partner the acclaimed architect, Ezequiel Farca, whose practice is based in Mexico City and Los Angeles, CA.

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