

TRAFFICNYC

Formento + Formento's groundbreaking photographic work

"Japan Diaries" and "She is Cuba"

Presented by TrafficNYC

at ART MIAMI



Yuka V, Kosigaya, Japan, 2013



She is Cuba: MARIANIII, 2014

New York, NY (November 17, 2014) [TrafficNYC](#) and VVFA, two New York based galleries, have partnered to present the dynamic husband/wife team BJ and Richielle Formento for the second year in a row at **Art Miami** (www.art-miami.com) from December 2 – 7, 2014. **Formento + Formento** series "*Japan Diaries*" and "*She Is Cuba*" will be displayed at Art Miami - **Booth B37** (The Art Miami Pavilion Wynwood Arts District 3101 NE 1st Avenue, Miami, Fl.).

For more email us at info@traffic-nyc.com or call +1 212 734 0041.

In *Japan Diaries* (2013) Formento + Formento embarked on a journey through Japan, photographing this seminal series of work, focusing on the cultural ambiguity and eroticism in Japanese culture, seen through their eyes. They captured powerful lasting images in their signature cinematic lens that exudes a sense of quiet unease and melancholy. The highly staged and melodramatic images are inspired by theater, 1950's Japanese cinema, the photographs of Nobuyoshi Araki and Daido Moriyama, Edo woodblock prints, and the erotic imagery of Ero Guro paintings. As outside observers, the Formentos' stylized images explore the dichotomies that embody modern Japan— blurring the aesthetics between tradition and the ultra modern, fantasy and reality. The captivating tableaux exude a sense of tension and ambiguity. Each image from *Japan Diaries* exists as if it were a still taken from a Japanese noir film, each solitary figure yearning for something unknown.

She is Cuba (2014) is the latest photography series from American duo Formento + Formento. "*She is Cuba*" explores the sense of sadness and waiting. Avoiding the sporadic shoot-and-click activity often associated with city imagery, the pair transform their chosen locations, which are bursting with cinematic beauty and brooding darkness. The crumbling walls of colonial architecture, the abandoned casinos, hotels and cinemas, through the streets of old Havana and all that glory that once was, they wanted to create "cinema-graphs" where the open ended drama is played out by their Cuban heroine.

Placing their impeccably styled models in the midst of the city, the fading, dreary shop fronts and classic cars, which are reminiscent of the 1950's, tell a new story. Using light to great effect, their subjects often appear to rise up out of the crumbling scenery.

Art Miami marks another exciting year for BJ and Richeille Formento whose photographic expeditions have spanned the globe. As they continue to forge their success in 2014 with solo exhibits at Fahey Klein in Los Angeles and Robert Klein in Boston. They were also featured in Wolf and Blink magazines and had two cover stories in Aesthetica Magazine. In September 2013 the Formentos celebrated the release of their first art tome, **Circumstance**, published by YK Editions, accompanied by a short documentary on their work shown at the Pompidou Museum in Paris. Their increased presence in the international art fair circuit includes Paris Photo, AIPAD, Photo Shanghai, Art Silicon and Art Miami.

About Formento + Formento

BJ Formento was born in Hawaii and grew up in the Philippines. After receiving his BFA in Photography from the Academy of Arts University of California, he moved to New York and assisted Richard Avedon, Mary Ellen Mark, and Annie Leibovitz, as well as studied with Eugene Richards and Arnold Newman. Richeille Formento was born in London and attended the prestigious Central St. Martins College of Art before working as an art director.

To view additional work visit:

[Japan Diaries](#)

[She Is Cuba](#)

[Formento + Formento Website](#)

[Formento + Formento Press Gallery](#)

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