

Izabella “Izzy” Bandojo Grant, Francisco León |  
Fritzi Gallery | OSA

## “UNDER THE SAME CLOUD”

Group Exhibition

Izabella “Izzy” Bandojo Grant and Francisco León

January 16 – March 4, 2018

Vernissage: Tuesday January 16, 2018, 6 - 8 p.m.

*The Ottawa School of Art* is proud to present the work of Diploma Students:

### Izabella “Izzy” Bandojo Grant and Francisco León

The **Ottawa School of Art** presents new works by **Diploma Students Izabella “Izzy” Bandojo Grant and Francisco León.**

Although Izzy and Francisco have come from different backgrounds, artistically they share a common passion for the medium of photography and have teamed up to present a body of black and white digital imagery inspired by the narrative of the current play presented at the G.C.T.C.: “What A Young Wife Ought to Know”.

With a comprehensive vocabulary in both Dance and Music informing Izzy’s photographic creativity, she skillfully captures playfully vibrant and fluid movements in her black and white photographs. Francisco’s images are thoughtful yet ruminative. They are quiet and contemplative yet engaging to the viewer, each offering their own narratives.

Both Izzy and Francisco are currently completing the three year Fine Arts Diploma program at OSA.

“We have used this opportunity to show how we both perceive our lives while behind the lens. Even though our lifestyles and ideas are different, we’ve managed to bring our works together in unison.”

– *Izzy Grant, Artist / Francisco Leon, Artist*



**OTTAWA ÉCOLE  
SCHOOL D'ART  
OF ART D'OTTAWA**



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***Izabella “Izzy” Bandojo Grant***

**Artist Biography:**

Izabella “Izzy” Bandojo Grant is a Philippine/Canadian dancer, painter and photographer based in Ottawa. Since her early childhood, Izabella has been exposed to the world of art. Dancing since the age of three, she has trained in classical styles from classical Tap, Jazz and Musical Theatre to street styles such as Waacking and the New York Hustle. Izabella also got introduced to music at a young age. At nine years of age until her early teens, Izabella played multiple instruments such as the violin, trombone, clarinet and drums and participated in multiple school bands. Because of her background, it only seemed natural for Izabella to go the artistic route. Photography and painting was always something Izabella admired but didn't pursue until later 2015. While at school, Izabella has found her identity, style and constant inspiration to explore new mediums. Through her paintings and photos, Izabella uses unique movements, choice of colors and vibrancy to portray her personality, creativity, energy and unique outlook on the world around her. Since early 2016, Izabella has had her work published three issues of PACE Magazine, an independent artist Ottawa based magazine. With her knowledge and exposure to multiple mediums, Izabella likes to mix her different mediums, giving her constant inspiration. Izabella currently studies Fine Arts at the Ottawa School of Art and is a program leader for the City of Ottawa, working with children and youth in low income communities. She uses her passion for the arts and the community to help inspire children and youth to use art as an expressive, positive outlet.

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***Izabella “Izzy” Bandojo Grant***

**Artist Statement:**

Welcome to how I see the world and let me take you through Ottawa, of its people and its movement. Through this series of work, I take a stroll through Downtown/Centertown Ottawa, highlighting the busyness and liveliness of the busy bodies, moving cars and energy in an evening setting, guided by the bright lights that help illuminate the beautiful locations. While capturing the Downtown Ottawa nightlife, I had Ottawa dancers of different genres accompany and aid me by adding their dance style, flavour, fashion and unique flow to complement the shift of the city.

Ever since my early childhood, I had always been fascinated by dance; how one connects with music, their environment, creativity and their soul. Different dance styles and music tap into different parts of a person, bringing out a different personality every time. Dance is so personal and unique to an individual; no one can copy or mimic their movement. I thought it was only natural to create a series on a subject I feel so strongly about. It only occurred to me later in life to mix both of my worlds to create something so meaningful to me. To help compliment the creative movement of dance, I wanted to play with the power and movement of street lights in a dark, evening setting, really focusing on the dancer’s flow. With my work in black and white, it gives off power as well as natural subtlety paired with the flow of the dancers, movement and vibrancy of the lights.

Here is the world through my eyes.

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***Izabella “Izzy” Bandojo Grant***

**Curriculum Vitae:**

2015 – Present: Fine Arts Diploma program, Ottawa School of Art

2017: work published in PACE Magazine Issue 2, Issue 3 and Issue 4

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***Francisco León***

**Artist Biography:**

I was born and raised in the city of Bogotá, the capital of Colombia. There I was always surrounded by different kinds of artists, such as musicians, painters, and even writers, who awoke in me the interest to communicate my ideas not only verbally, but also through more creative medias.

In my ninth grade of high school, I considered that, the skills my classmates noticed in me should be better trained in order that I may take advantage of them. That's why I decided to take courses in drawing and art in general. And before graduating, I made the decision to study graphic design.

In 2004, I started studying graphic design at the Universitaria Los Libertadores, (The Liberators University), in Bogotá, Columbia. There I learned to use both analogous and digital tools, but the most important thing I learned was how to translate concepts into images.

In 2009, I successfully finished all my classes at the university and went to work in small advertising agencies, but in 2011 when I got my degree after presenting my thesis, I went to work for one of the biggest advertising agencies worldwide: Leo Burnett.

While at Leo Burnett, I started working as a junior art director and was part of the creative team. I developed multiple campaigns for brands like: Carrefour and Cencosud. Over time I was promoted to be a senior art director and my responsibilities were focused on other types of accounts such as: Diageo, Directv, Cusezar and Toyota.

In 2014, I made the decision to come to Canada with the intention of learning English, but after seven months living in Ottawa, I realized that this is a beautiful country and without thinking more than twice, I decided to study the fine arts program at the Ottawa School of Art, (OSA), where I am currently finishing the third year.

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*Francisco León*

**Artist Statement:**

My work as a photographer is characterized by being versatile. I am just as comfortable working in a studio as when I go for a walk with my camera. I am always looking for the ideal moment to push the button to capture a moment that is aesthetically pleasing or that tells a fantastic story.

As an artist, I try to show ideas in clear, direct ways. I prefer to produce images that are visually stimulating and that are purely for the pleasure of viewing. However, as a photographer, my intention is to tell stories. The space around the subject is just as important as their facial expression: knowing how to take advantage of different light sources, and handling them properly when they are challenging, are things I must keep in mind to develop my work when I am behind the camera.

The photographic series “Under The Same Cloud” is a series of black and white photographs rich in high contrast, with which I use to capture female beauty. Each of the photographs suggests a high degree of sensuality, as this work is inspired by the play “What A Young Wife Ought To Know” written by Hanna Moscovitch. This work recreates the drama of a young girl who, as a mother, wishes to continue exploring and learning about love, sexuality and contraceptive methods.

When working with the models, there is a dialogue, a level of comfort or familiarity between them and me as a photographer. But I must always be present to reach a point where it becomes of little importance that a man with a camera is capturing their joys, their sorrows, or their most intimate desires.