

## The Mystery of the Orchid.

To enter into Alec Von Barga's photographic work *Veritas Feminae* is like deciphering the mystery of an orchid.

The artist, behind the lens of his camera comprehends, captures and retains the most profound of the gazes, the soul of that which is feminine; with utter preciousness and sensitivity he builds his own language derived from experimentation and the daring bravado of the deconstruction of an image – the feminine one – into giant mosaics from which a group of marginalized women are capable of joining like sisters with the strength brought on by the passion, by the vital (they are bearers of life); or by the solidarity of facing a death which at any moment could assault them in any corner of their cities, or rice fields, or industrial installations of the 21st century.

The spectator becomes an accomplice to the exploration of the female soul that Von Barga presents in this collection of large format, mosaic-like photographic installations, which he has taken during his long journeys around the world. With the subtlety of the diaphragm, the artist (de) composes the soul of the feminine, he induces us through the dark paths of the Persephones, and the illuminated, tree-lined hills of the modern Artemises.; a career which evidences the beauty and authenticity with which Von Barga approaches women. The group of images forming *Veritas Feminae* shows also the respect and empathy with which the artist has dedicated himself to research and express the feminine soul. With the utmost care his photographic mosaics have been able to not fall into commonplace, they have avoided being a cliché, instead, they bring us closer to discover the mystery of the feminine, the mystery of the Orchid that is born in the most unsuspected places and despite all adversity grows splendid even though its surroundings are full of challenges and adversity.

On a personal note, I have followed the artistic growth of Alec Von Bargen, who has known how to honour the gaze of the feminine and has worked intensely until achieving a unique and extremely suggestive language, raising the bar of his own career and creations. I am proud to have seen and to present this mosaic of women, in an artistic proposal which enriches with its enchantment, mystery and beauty.

ERCILIA GÓMEZ MAQUEO  
Director of The Jose Cuervo Foundation