

EXHIBITION: **Ariane Lopez-Huici**
 23rd November 2004 – 30th January 2005

Organiza: IVAM-Institut Valencia d'Art Modern

Curator: Joan Ramon Escrivà

From 23 November to 30 January the Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (IVAM) is presenting a selection of 80 large-format black and white photographs by Ariane Lopez-Huici (Biarritz, 1945) which show the artist's interest in the naked body in relation with structures of power.

This exhibition, the first to be devoted to Lopez-Huici in Spain, includes a showing of the short film *TOAK*, made by the photographer on reaching the age of fifty, in which she is seen performing an enigmatic dance in the nude without musical accompaniment, in a kind of Dionysiac celebration of her maturity.

Lopez-Huici's interest in the human body and her confrontation with cultural challenges and taboos have led her to travel to Africa intermittently during the last few years. The exhibition includes her recent series of photographs taken in Mali and Senegal, together with some of the series that have had most international impact, such as *Aviva*, *Solo absolu* (Absolute Solo), *Holly* and *Dalila Khatir*.

Some of the models who appear in her photographic series are individuals with rotund bodies, of Rubenesque dimensions, far removed from the aesthetic canons promoted by the media. The directness in the exhibition of their naked bodies must be understood as an act of subversion on the part of the artist.

After training as an assistant to the film director Nelson Pereira dos Santos, considered the father of Cinema Novo in Brazil, in 1975 Lopez-Huici broke away from the medium of films in order to devote herself exclusively to studio photography. Her first solo exhibition was presented at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in 1979, with a series of portraits of personalities from the worlds of art and culture. In 1983, at PS1 in New York, she showed her series of photos entitled *Les tombes de Soliman le Magnifique* (The Tombs of Sulaiman the Magnificent), resulting from a journey to Istanbul. Her participation in the exhibition *Fragments, Parts, Wholes: The body and culture*, at White Columns in New York, had a decisive impact on her artistic career. Since then her photographic work has concentrated on a hard core of research that is central for this artist: the human body in its dialectic with structures of power.

The exhibition presented by the IVAM is accompanied by a catalogue which reproduces the works exhibited and includes essays by Joan Ramon Escrivà, the curator of the exhibition, Arthur Danto and Edmund White. It also includes an extensive interview with the artist by Paul Audi.