

# BODIES OF WORK

HARVEY MILK  
PHOTO  
CENTER



KATINKA HERBERT

**Conversation & Book Signing:** Thursday, April 18, 2024, 6 - 7:30pm

**Closing Reception & Meet the Artist:** Saturday, April 20, 2024, 2 - 4:30pm

**Exhibition Dates:** March 2 – April 20, 2024

**Location:** Harvey Milk Photo Center, 50 Scott St. SF

**Curators:** Elena Norberg-Brown and Melissa Castro Keesor

The Friends of Harvey Milk Photo Center are pleased to present **BODIES OF WORK**, an exhibition by **Katinka Herbert**

For more information [harveymilkphotocenter.org](http://harveymilkphotocenter.org)

This exhibition explores the commodification of athletic bodies. Bringing two projects into dialogue, Katinka Herbert delves into the lives of Mexican wrestlers and Cuban athletes. In doing so, her images capture the dilemma of physical performance: a tense relationship between economic necessity and the human form.

While some athletes experience their bodies as vehicles of financial stability and international travel, many grapple with unpredictable incomes, visa barriers, and the looming threat of career-ending injuries. As such, 'Bodies of Work' is a study of precarious labor. Here, lives that are ordinarily defined by movement are frozen in the photographic frame. Their muscles resonate with tension and potential; their poses strain under personal and political weight.



**'Slam'** This project offers unprecedented access to the stars of the Mexican wrestling scene. Notoriously secretive about their true identities, it follows these hyper-masculine stars from the drama of the ring to the intimacy of their own homes. Eight years in the making, Slam is a story of trust. In documenting each costumed character, the project unmask[s] their private lives and alter-egos. Because concealed behind each disguise, many legends of Lucha Libre are a mess. Their foreheads are covered in scar tissue, their lives are marked by self-harm. This series brings a dignified lens to the characters hidden behind a uniquely Mexican ritual of performance, spectacle and machismo.



**'The Movers'** This project explores the subject of mobility through portraits of Cuba's top athletes. Their lives are dictated by movement: running, dancing, leaping and jumping. For a lucky few, this opens up new kinds of mobility – geographic, economic and social. But most of them remain trapped: frozen inside a country limited by the US economic embargo. The Movers captures this dilemma. Each subject is perfectly motionless within the frame. Each static body resonates with tension and potential. Their bodies are either a means of escape – a ticket to freedom – or the very obstacle to it. This exhibition invites us to consider the labor conditions that determine the lives of professional athletes, and the economic architectures that construct their performing bodies. These are bodies under tension: suspended between action and transaction, poised between freedom and constraint.

**[KatinKa Herbert](#)** – Katinka is a commercial portrait photographer based in London. Her projects explore identity, performance and extroversion. Brought up among filmmakers and circus performers, she is fascinated by characters who visibly manufacture their own identities: wrestlers, cross-dressers, movie stars and burlesque dancers. Her work is highly-constructed, immersing her subjects in a world of seduction, theatre and enigmatic humor. This approach has fueled a highly-acclaimed career in commercial portraiture, capturing A-listers from Beyonce to Brian Blessed, Hulk Hogan to Heston Blumenthal. Alongside these assignments, she regularly works on commission for clients such as Adidas, English National Opera, Coutts, Casely-Hayford, Iris Worldwide, Gillette, Jaguar Land Rover, Dazed & Confused, The Observer, Guardian, Telegraph, The Times, Wunderman Thompson and Martin Agency. Her accolades include a catalog of international award shows. Recent highlights include Portrait of Humanity (2019), Portrait of Britain (2018), IPA Lucie awards (2018), Taylor Wessing shortlist (2018), LensCulture (2018), SIPA (2018), AOP Open (2017) and the Royal Photographic Society International Photography Exhibition (2017) Finalist in the Sony World Photography Awards (2020) and Shortlisted for the Alpha Female Award, Sony World Photography Awards (2020).

**Media contact:**

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**Curators:**

Elena Norberg-Brown and Melissa Castro Keesor

**Exhibition Details:**

March 2 – April 20, 2024 Gallery, Harvey Milk Photo Center  
Free and open to the public, Tuesday – Thursday 3:00pm - 8:30pm  
and Saturday 11:00am - 4:30pm. Closed Sunday, Monday, Friday and legal Holidays  
(Hours Subject to change. Visit [harveymilkphotocenter.org](http://harveymilkphotocenter.org) for updates)

**Conversation & Book signing:**

Thursday, April 18, 2024, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Gallery, Harvey Milk Photo Center. Free and open to the public.  
In conversation with Katinka Herbert, a commercial portrait photographer based in London. Her projects explore identity, performance and extroversion. Brought up among filmmakers and circus performers, she is fascinated by characters who visibly manufacture their own identities: wrestlers, cross-dressers, movie stars and burlesque dancers. Moderated by **Ron Beinner** who has collaborated with the editors, writers, photographers and art directors of Vanity Fair magazine to creatively produce covers, portraits and portfolios on location from Anchorage to Timbuktu since 1998. Conversation begins at 6:30 pm in Gallery.

**Closing Reception & Meet the Artist:**

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 2:00 - 4:30 pm, Gallery, Harvey Milk Photo Center.  
Light refreshments. Free and open to the public.

**About the Harvey Milk Photo Center**

Serving the San Francisco community since 1940, the Harvey Milk Photo Center operates the oldest and largest community wet darkroom in the United States. Members also have access to large format printers, film scanning equipment and a full feature digital lab with Adobe software. The Center's educational program now exceeds 200 classes, workshops, and lectures annually, conducted by working professionals in both fine arts and commercial photography. Scholarships are available for anyone living in San Francisco wishing to take our classes. All exhibitions, lectures, special events and memberships are available to the public.



The Harvey Milk Photo Center is a part of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. Since 1954, the Center has resided at 50 Scott Street, in the lower level of the Harvey Milk Center for the Arts building at Duboce Park.

Exhibit photos printed by **Point101**