

**DON'T  
FUCK  
WITH  
ME**



# DON'T FUUCK WITH ME

## PROJECT'S ORIGIN

The photography exhibition “Don't Fuck with Me” created by Géraldine Aresteanu and Patricia Louisor-Brosset seeks to celebrate the power of girls and women. Whether it be Inna, or Véronique, or Andréa... each is an everyday heroine, indeed we are all everyday heroines, and their story is our own. Through her camera lens, Géraldine perceives their force and fragility, and captures the subtle emotions residing within their faces and attitudes. Patricia recounts each woman's story : a short text to support the images.

This exhibition was set up quickly, at a time when women began speaking out. This is no coincidence. The mission of “Don't Fuck with Me” is to provide positive impetus and open the floodgates so that these voices may be heard.

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# GÉRALDINE ARESTEANU

Géraldine Aresteanu fell in love with photography at age 13 and since then has never wavered in her desire to become a photographer. Born in Romania during the revolution, photography appeared to Geraldine as a symbol of freedom. At 15, she received her first camera as a gift from her parents, and studied mathematics in the hope of gaining entry to Louis Lumière, France's prestigious school of cinema, photography and sound engineering... but was rejected.

Despite the setback, Geraldine refused to lose sight of her dream, seeking out experienced photographers from whom she could learn her craft. By 1990 she had established herself as an independent photographer, and in 1998, she moved to the French city of Orléans.

In 2001, Geraldine was awarded a grant from the Foundation de France and the Crédit Mutuel Foundation for her book of photography, "Portraits for a Word", dedicated to sign language.

Prestigious companies now regularly commission her work through Salez-Poivrez (Salt & Pepper), the communications agency she co-founded, specializing in fashion photography, portraiture and photo-reportage.

Always, at the heart of Geraldine's work are people. Passionate about each encounter, she creates a closeness with her subjects to reveal that which we so often fail to see in others: the intensity of a regard, the vulnerability of a hand, the fragility beneath a smile. With extraordinary sensitivity and attentiveness, Geraldine's eye manages to capture the singularity and magic residing within those she photographs. She has a talent for drawing out the deepest aspects of their character. The power of her images often surpasses words in their ability to express emotion.

In her atypical project "24 Hours", Geraldine lived with each of her subjects over a 24-hour period. Photographing their daily lives, she recounts a totally unexpected visual narrative of their hours spent together. To connect, to understand, to capture life as it is in that very instant - are her recurring themes. It is impossible not to be touched by the beauty of these images and the lives she captures with such benevolence and sensitivity.

Despite her busy schedule, Geraldine followed us with grace and energy in the Dont Fuck with Me project at the Salon des Dames. Here, she succeeds in transposing onto film all the power, determination, fragility and kindness of these 8 women. The emotion resonates for us all.

## PATRICIA LOUISOR-BROSSET

Patricia Louisor-Brosset is a fashion designer, a D.J., a life coach, a decorator and an activist....

If at first glance her path appears eclectic, Patricia Louisor-Brosset knows how to bring it all together, and joyfully navigates from one creative current to another - with boundless energy !

A stint in journalism with the Franco-American city magazine "Paris Passion" led to a job as Head of Advertising for fashion mogul Sonia Rykiel.

From there, her love of fabrics incited her to launch her own eponymous fashion line. What began as a small boutique in Paris' picturesque Montmartre neighborhood expanded into an international business, with her creations distributed across Europe, the United States and Japan.

In 2010 Patricia sold that business and launched a new venture, "Le Chant du Coq". Showcasing the French "art de vivre", the company developed elegant box sets designed for luxury picnics, including hand-dyed linens, carefully-selected vintage crystal, porcelain and silverware.

Patricia didn't stop there ! A highly sought-after DJ on both sides of the Atlantic, Patricia continues to set dance floors on fire from New York to Paris for fashion week and other high-end private events with her inimitable mix of soul, funk and electro. Her only concern : making people happy on the dance-floor !

Patricia is also a member of the speed-consulting collective known as the Slashers where she met Geraldine.

Her most recent endeavors include certification as a life coach helping guide clients through the often murky path leading to transformation, and the co-founding of feminist NGO "Salon des Dames" which left in 2017.

Patricia loves people, beings, humans, individuals, crowds, the world, everyone !

# INNA

Inna was born twice. The first time, in Mali 33 years ago. The second time, on the operating table at age 22 when a French surgeon repaired the terrible wound she thought was irreparable : the excision inflicted upon her when she was 5 years old.

Inna is a singer and tells her story through her music. But she is equally engaged as an activist committed to eradicating female genital mutilation. She sponsors the House of Women (Maison des Femmes) a structure dedicated to supporting the victims of sexual, domestic and psychological violence.



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**I HAVE COMFORTING  
WORDS IN MY MOUTH  
AND DREAMS OF  
A BETTER WORLD  
BEHIND MY EYELIDS.**

She participates in group therapy, because talking is the first step towards healing. She knows from personal experience that the greatest difficulty for victims of sexual violence is to overcome the sense of shame that shuts them behind a wall of silence.

By sharing her experience with others, Inna gives new hope and greater confidence to other women. Her creed : No one has the right to abuse the bodies of girls and women.

Inna will continue to repeat this creed as long as it takes until the message is truly heard. Inna's mouth contains the all the words needed to persuade, but she does so calmly.

Inna Modja proves to the world that it is possible to be a fully engaged, committed activist while remaining peaceful.

# ANDRÉA

As a dancer and an actress, Andrea expresses many things through the body. Driven by a tremendous life force, Andrea possesses energy, talent and generosity ten times above average.

Andrea was eight the first time she was raped by a close friend of the family, and the abuse continued for many years. Building her life as a woman after such trauma proved difficult, and Andrea struggled to accept her body.

Dance provided her with a poetic form of self-expression, as well as a physical outlet for her anger and a conduit to evacuate her feelings of guilt and shame. Dance became her life breath.

In 2016, she created and performed “Les chatouilles (Tickling)” which uses dance to tell the story of a child victim of sexual abuse. A powerful work, “Tickling” was lauded unanimously by the critics, and earned a prestigious Molière award for Best Solo performance (French equivalent an American Tony). Today she is fighting to change the laws and the mentalities concerning juvenile sex offenses and pedocriminality. She advocates for prevention and her hope is, for one day, to finally obtain imprescriptibility.



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**I'VE GOT DANCE  
UNDER MY SKIN  
AND THE FORCE  
OF LIFE IN  
MY HEAD.**

# VÉRONIQUE

Véronique lives in the French city of Orléans. In 2014, she was diagnosed with a highly invasive form of breast cancer.

So she decided to fight for her life, to fight against illness, to fight for her dignity.

She chose to hold her head high, to set her sights firmly on remission and recovery. Her daily mantra became, "I can make it, I will hold onto desire, I will not lose hope."

There is no shame in illness, and beauty can be found in the eyes of others.

Shortly after the diagnosis, Véronique contacted Géraldine and asked her to photograph the different stages of her illness, to follow her progress, to stand beside her. During this period, an intimate bond developed between the two women.

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**I WILL FIGHT  
TO THE END  
AND I WILL  
WIN.**



Today, Véronique has won. Her cancer is in remission, her breast has been reconstructed, her hair has grown back and she now sells undergarments made with special fabrics to soften the lives of women who, like her, have undergone a mastectomy or reconstructive surgery.