



## RE - VELATION

*Re-velation* is a photographic series by Carla Iacono that addresses the delicate topic of the **manipulation** of cultural differences, starting from the situation of Muslim women immigrants in Europe.

The discussion about the veils worn by Islamic women has always been **ongoing**; its **evocative** power and the plurality of meanings that can be attributed to the veil have placed it at the center of intense debates in the media, politics, religion, and culture. It is often discussed as if it were a phenomenon **alien** to Western culture, but that is not the case at all. The veil is not exclusively linked to Islam: it is part of a dress code that the Western world has long practiced, but has now forgotten. This is why the presence of veiled women next to us evokes surprise, discomfort, **unease**, and hostility. It **sparks** discussion.

*Re-velation* brings together a series of twenty photographic images by Carla Iacono in which the veil - primarily the hijab, but also Catholic and Jewish veils, as well as Eastern European scarves - is presented in different ways, with references to the different cultures that have adopted it. The veil has assumed many meanings; it is linked, for example, to events or situations of **initiatory** value, or to "rites of passage," such as the transition from childhood to puberty, a theme that the artist has always explored in her works. Not surprisingly, the portraits are interpreted by the daughter Flora, an autobiographical element that **enhances** the emphasis of the representation.

Some works in the series reference portraiture from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, sometimes with explicit references to a specific painting: this is a strategy to create a symbolic **contamination** between Eastern and Western cultures. The figures are photographed against a dark background that often **merges** with the clothing; the side light highlights the figure against the darkness, revealing the outlines of the face and the details of the veils, aesthetically and symbolically reinforcing the concept of revelation.

According to the artist, it is a female **prerogative** to address complex and delicate issues with lightness yet determination. With *Re-velation*, Carla Iacono does not take a stand on the use of the veil; rather, she **delves into** history to "reveal" a series of values and meanings, fully respecting the differences and similarities between different cultures. Her work is a personal contribution to stimulate the observer to reflect and stand on the side of "others." If these images prompt graceful and passionate discussions on the topic, the artist will have achieved her goal.

# GLOSSARY

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**Manipulation:** The act of influencing or controlling something in a clever or dishonest way.

**Ongoing:** in progress, continuing, current, growing

**Cultural Differences:** Distinctions or variations in customs, behaviors, and beliefs between different groups of people.

**Evocative:** Producing strong feelings or emotions in a powerful way.

**Alien:** Foreign, unfamiliar, or differing from what is customary.

**Unease:** anxiety, apprehension, nervousness, distress.

**To spark:** start, stimulate, provoke, excite.

**Initiatory:** Relating to a ceremony or ritual marking a person's entrance into a society or group.

**To enhance:** to enhance something means to improve its value, quality, or attractiveness.

**Contamination:** The process of making something impure or unclean by contact or mixture.

**To merge:** melt, blend, incorporate.

**Prerogative:** An exclusive right or privilege held by a particular person or group.

**To delve into:** If you delve into something, you try to discover new information about it. [...]