

Giacobetti Paul Gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARI DUKOVIC | BURLESQUE

OPENS THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 6 PM | SPECIAL ARMORY WEEK OPENING SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 6-9PM
EXHIBITION CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH 30, 2013

Giacobetti Paul is pleased to announce an exhibition of photographs by artist Pari Dukovic. His study of burlesque, from the Italian *burlesco* ("joke") presents an innovative look at a naughty art form enjoying a new heyday.

Fascinated by the "rebellious performances" within the New York burlesque scene, Dukovic captured the "...artists who take a piece of themselves and build a character in their fantasy world."

Dukovic speaks of the dichotomy between the incandescence of a public persona and the emotional candor of the private self: "I wanted my viewer to enter the emotional state of the performers' character and psyche. The subject matter was explored with a voyeuristic approach, to attempt to reveal a pure moment, to absorb the energy of their act, to capture and translate that energy."



Having flourished in England from the 1840s, burlesque American-style began to dominate around 1900 as cabaret with comedy, magic shows, and exotic dance. By 1932 there were over 150 well-known headliners in the U.S. Marquee comics who appeared in burlesque acts early in their careers included Fanny Brice, Mae West, Abbott and Costello, Jackie Gleason, and Danny Kaye. Prohibition (and the rise of Puritanism which followed) brought the glory days of burlesque to a close. Now experiencing a revival, neo-burlesque appeals to a new generation, nostalgic for the spectacle and its perceived glamor, with revues in major cities worldwide recreating the flirty, classic striptease, with a nod to its reputation of seediness as gloss.

Born in Istanbul in 1984 of Greek descent, Dukovic was introduced to photography when his father gave him his first camera. In 2002, came to the United States to complete his undergraduate studies at Rochester Institute of Technology, and moved to New York City. New York City's energy and numerous subcultures paralleled the diversity and traditions of his home country and provided Dukovic with an insight into the convergence of people's lives in an urban environment. In capturing his subjects' expressions about the things that move them, Dukovic has discovered what inspires him.

Dukovic's work has appeared in *New York Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Zeit Magazine*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *Time*, *Esquire*, and *GQ*. He was listed as one of the photographers to watch in *The British Journal of Photography* in 2013 and in *PDN 30*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.