

“Re-creations, 1987-2018” are a series of collaborations reconstructing earlier images I made over 33 years of visiting the village of San Bartolo Coyotepec, Oaxaca, Mexico; not only collaborations between myself as artist and my past subjects but also collaborations between villagers. Children I photographed over the years now have families of their own and decide who should be placed where and how, and in some cases, their own children stood in where they once were photographed. They choose who will wear what, where a 33-year-old image had been made and how and where we should make a new one. History and memories are exchanged and passed down, reawakened, weaving a legacy of photographs and stories and creating new memories to continue on.

During the winter of 1987, I embarked on a quest to explore village life in Mexico. My initial journey was to document the daily lives of women in remote villages to understand how my grandmothers lived in their Greek villages. Each year that I returned I gifted, as a gesture of gratitude, 5x7 black and white prints which I made by hand in my darkroom.

Upon returning in 2018, I attended the wedding of Adrian, the 5-year-old who helped me the first year I visited San Bartolo Coyotepec and now is a 38-year-old physician. His cousins and I decided to recreate the images that I had made and gifted over the years.

It is always in retrospect that you can connect the dots and string together a narrative. That I had any understanding during the winter of 1987 and the subsequent visits that I was creating for this village family a distinct legacy, I might have been surprised.

Over the years, those hand-made prints, which are displayed on their walls and covered in plastic for preservation, have become a physical embodiment of a relationship where they have become an important part of my life as I am in theirs.

We have updates. We can see their heritage and legacy as it has evolved over the years.