

Leopoldo Goût

Elefante

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Elefante is a solo exhibition by renowned Mexican artist, author, and filmmaker Leopoldo Goût, featuring a dynamic range of multimedia works. With a bold, maximalist vision, the exhibition spans textiles, bronze sculptures, paintings, video, and sound, exploring Goût's enduring obsession with contradictions, dreams, and the ephemeral nature of existence. International in scope and deeply tied to Goût's decades-long career, *Elefante* portrays image-making as a migratory journey. The exhibition is accompanied by a personal ambient soundtrack titled *Telar Adentro*, composed by Goût and Oriana Gidi, which will be released as a limited-edition vinyl. Alongside the show, a career retrospective book and a feature-length international documentary mark Goût's powerful return to the contemporary art world after more than a decade.

The origin of "Disambiguation," the first collaboration between Leopoldo Goût and Zapotec artisan Antonio Ruiz Mendoza, began with an unexpected moment—a paint spill in Goût's former studio at the World Trade Center. This accident led Goût to the loom, a tool that, like his art, relies on tension, sound, smell, and rhythm. Intrigued by these parallels, Goût found a kindred spirit in Mendoza and his family, who translated that moment onto the loom. This collaboration revealed that the rhythmic, almost trance-like nature of weaving echoes Goût's approach across mediums. In this dreamlike, liminal space, the image migrates across continents and forms, reborn through ancestral practices. It reemerges once again in "*Elefante Flotador*," a series of lost-wax bronze sculptures created in

collaboration with Fundidora Pecart in Mexico City.

The Ruiz Mendoza family belongs to the Zapotec Vidau community, an organization dedicated to reviving and researching ancestral techniques, including weaving. Their collaboration is documented in *Common Thread*, a Povos Gallery film directed by Esteban Alarcón, which delves into Goût and Mendoza's individual and collective creative practices. Through this lens, the documentary highlights how *Elefante* expands a cross-continental dialogue, reflecting Goût's deep commitment to conservation and sustainability.

This butterfly effect, or simply a distinct Goûtist effect, allows and celebrates the journey of thought. Goût dances at the tensile border between his dreams and reality, weight and fragility, innocence and rampage, intelligence and animism. If a monarch, like those we see in "*SWARM*," flaps its wings in the Mexican rainforest, does an elephant stampede? Does a deer turn its head at the sound of a paint spill in Lower Manhattan? Does it matter if we arrive at something magical?

For more information about this exhibition, Povos Chicago and/or the gallery's plans for the remainder of 2024 programming, please reach out to contact@povoschicago.com.



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1. Leopoldo Goût, La Desambiguación de un Elefante (no.1)“And so it begins”, 2023-2024, wool, natural dyes woven on a hand loom
Produced in collaboration with Antonio Ruiz Mendoza (in Teotitlán del Valle, MX), 112” x 120

2. Composed by Leopoldo Goût and Oriana Gidi, Telar Adentro, Vinyl (with unique drawing), 12” x 12”, Edition of 250