

**Kevin Osepa (b. 1994)**

**Altá 2017**

**Blou Blouse 2018**

From the *Mester Blousé* series

*Two mothers discuss the fact that one of their babies appears to be thriving so well: "You have to rub blue into it; mester blousé. With real indigo blue dye."*

– Brenneker, P (1975). Sambumbu part 7, Willemstad, Curaçao

In the *Mester blousé* series Kevin Osepa explores how his identity was shaped by the superstitions and culture of his native Curaçao. Osepa emigrated to the Netherlands as a small child. This affected him not only as a person, but also as a photographer, as his way of looking at the world changed completely.

In this project, he uses the symbolism of the culture of the island of his birth to tell his own life story, the story of a black man growing up against a background of religious and 'brua'\* practices.

Besides exploring themes like colonialism, the Afro-Caribbean, diaspora and religion, *Mester blousé* also tells a story in which reality and magic exist in the same world, with no external prejudice or interference.

*\*brua is a collective name for the sorcery, superstition, quackery, spiritualism, scaremongering and secrecy scams that are particularly common in Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire. The word 'brua' (mix up, confuse) undoubtedly has something to do with this.*