



Press Release

## A star-studded line-up of photographers take part in GPP Photo Week 2017



**Dubai, United Arab Emirates - 9 November, 2016.** Ten world-renowned photographers are due to take part in GPP Photo Week 2017, the region's first and longest-running international photography festival. Organised by Dubai's only dedicated photography centre, Gulf Photo Plus (GPP), the festival will include a variety of soon to be announced workshops and talks on the latest innovations and techniques in the field. The workshops will be led by some of the world's leading photographers including documentary photographers **Maggie Steber** and **Davide Monteleone**; conceptual & fantastical photographer, **Ben Von Wong**; and street photographer **Asim Rafiqi**. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the festival – the first and longest-running of its kind in the region – will run from **February 10 - 17, 2017** and will take place at Alserkal Avenue in Al Quoz.



**Co-Director of Gulf Photo Plus, Mohamed Somji**, commented, “It is a great honour to be able to bring such an illustrious line-up of photographers who have positively contributed to the medium and are recognized worldwide. To have them here in Dubai supporting the young photography community is fantastic and echoes GPP’s aims to nurture and develop the photography community both within the UAE and the region.”

The ten photographers coming from a variety of different photography backgrounds are:

### **[Zack Arias - Lighting & Street](#)**

Zack Arias is an editorial portrait and music photographer based in Atlanta, Georgia in the US. Zack's approach is simple, straightforward, bold, classic, true and straight from camera. His greatest talents are the ability to mix with people from different backgrounds and relax in front of the camera. He believes that a photographer's true job description is to be a "problem solver".

Arias will be giving a variety of workshops including: [Making Portraiture Personal](#) (intermediate), [One Light](#) (confident beginner), [Street Photography](#) (confident beginner) and [Street Photography - Day & Night](#) (confident beginner).

### **[Matt Armandariz - Food Photographer, Stylist, and Blogger](#)**

Los Angeles-based photographer Matt Armandariz is a commercial photographer that explores the world through food for a variety of editorial and advertising clients such as Target, Food Network, Cooking Channel, and Coca Cola, as well as various book publishers and publications. His most recent projects include a year-long food campaign for Target and a cookbook (the 30th that he has photographed) that will be released this year.

Armandariz will be leading three Food Photography workshops responding to different levels: [Beginner](#), [Confident Beginner](#) and [Intermediate](#).

### **[Rafael “RC” Concepcion - Post-Processing](#)**

RC Concepcion is the author of the bestselling book *How to Get Your Photography on the Web* and *The HDR Book – Unlocking the Pros’ Hottest Post-Processing Techniques*. RC is an education and curriculum developer for the National Association of Photoshop Professionals, and one of the Photoshop Guys. An award-winning photographer and Adobe Certified Instructor in Photoshop, Illustrator and Lightroom, RC has over 14 years in the tech industry, designing sites and training thousands in Adobe technologies.



Concepcion will hold six workshops on Post-Processing in a variety of levels: [\*The Complete Lightroom Workflow: From Backups to Your Phone\*](#) (beginner), [\*Lightroom for Pros\*](#) (intermediate), [\*Start to Finish Lightroom\*](#) (beginner), [\*Mastering Layer Masking\*](#) (confident beginner), [\*10 Portrait Retouching Techniques Every Photographer Needs to Know\*](#) (confident beginner) and [\*Post-Processing and Special Effects for Photographers\*](#) (confident beginner).

### **David Hobby - Lighting, Business & Social Media**

David Hobby comes from a 20-year career as a newspaper photographer, working for a number of publications in the US such as The Baltimore Sun. In 2006, Hobby founded popular lighting blog, Strobist.

Hobby's informal teaching style draws upon his experience of photographing over 10,000 assignments over 20 years to make learning how to master your small flashes not only easy, but also fun.

Hobby will lead three confident-beginner workshops covering lighting: [\*Speedlite Bootcamp\*](#), [\*Introduction to Off-Camera Flash\*](#) and a special off-site trip to the [\*Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque at Blue Hour\*](#).

### **Sara Lando - Fine Art, Portrait, Beauty & Commercial**

Sara Lando is an Italian photographer specialising in portrait, beauty, commercial photography, and mixed media projects. Her work combines exquisite lighting, extreme creativity, and experimental techniques, blurring the lines between photography and fine art. Whether she's crafting her conceptual images into dioramas or creating memorable portraits using a simple backdrop and classic lighting, Sara's strength is in photographing people. She shoots for major clients and teaches photography.

Lando's workshops will include: [\*Person and Persona: The Creative Side of Self Portrait\*](#) (confident beginner), [\*Adventures in Expressive Portraiture\*](#) (confident beginner), [\*Mixed Media\*](#) (confident beginner) and [\*Portraits, Props and Beauty Techniques\*](#) (intermediate).

### **Elia Locardi - Travel & Destination**

Elia Locardi is an internationally recognized professional travel photographer, Fujifilm Global Ambassador and X-Photographer, writer, public speaker and educator who spends his life shooting some of the most beautiful locations in the world. Location independent since March of 2012, he and his wife live a 100% mobile lifestyle, perpetually traveling from country to country, continuously circling the globe. Since he began traveling full-time in 2009, he has visited more than 50 countries and flown over one million miles. Locardi is best known for his



recreations of color images of renowned landscape as well as his aerial drone footage which have been praised in specialised online and book sources

Locardi will be offering two confident-beginner workshops: [\*Desert Nightscapes and Post-processing\*](#) and [\*Urban Landscapes at Sunrise and Sunset\*](#).

### **Daide Monteleone - Documentary**

Daide Monteleone is an artist and a visual journalist working on long term independent projects using photography, video, and text. He has devoted himself to the study of social issues, exploring the relationship between power and individuals. Known for his specific interest in the post-soviet countries, he published four books on this topic: *Dusha, Russian Soul* in 2007, *La Linea Inesistente*, in 2009, *Red Thistle* in 2012 and *Spasibo* in 2013. His projects have brought him numerous awards, including several World Press Photo prizes, and grants such as the Aftermath Grant, European Publishers Award and Carmignac Photojournalism Award. He regularly contributes to leading publications all over the world, and his projects have been presented as installations, exhibitions and screenings at festivals and galleries worldwide including the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Saatchi Gallery in London, MEP in Paris and Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome. He regularly lectures at universities and teaches workshops internationally.

Monteleone will be giving one intermediate-level 2 day workshop entitled [\*Portraiture As Narrative\*](#).

### **Asim Rafiqui - Street photography**

Asim Rafiqui is an independent photojournalist who was born and raised in Pakistan. He was the recipient of an Open Society Fellowship and has since 2012 been using a variety of media to present a more nuanced and personal perspective on the issue of access to justice in Pakistan. By focusing on the plight of some of Pakistan's most marginalized communities, he highlights the structural roots of the pervasive injustice that afflicts their lives and the failure of the current legal apparatus to resolve them. Rafiqui's work has appeared in Newsweek, Time, Harper's, Stern, National Geographic (France) and many other publications. Rafiqui also authors the photography blog *The Spinning Head*.

Rafiqui will be giving two confident beginner workshops entitled [\*Working The Streets: A Street Photography Primer\*](#).

### **Maggie Steber - Documentary**

Maggie Steber is a documentary photographer known for her humanistic stories of people and cultures. She was named a National Geographic Woman of Vision and has worked in 66 countries, producing cultural stories as well as significant work on



Haiti, Native Americans, and the sciences of sleep and memory loss. She has photographed for 30 years in Haiti. Her monograph, titled *Dancing on Fire*, is published by Aperture.

Steber will be offering an advanced photography workshop titled [\*Daring to See the World in a New Way\*](#) which will concentrate on finding new approaches to stories and ideas that have been photographed repeatedly, inspiring the students to think outside the box.

### **[Ben Von Wong - Conceptual & Fantastical](#)**

Motivated by the desire to be creatively challenged and overcome impossibilities, Ben Von Wong has become notorious for his epic photography. His hyper-realistic art style captures viewers in a fusion of special effects and innovative concepts. Benjamin's background in engineering gives him a unique edge for creative problem solving, where technical challenges become friendly competition.

Ben will be holding two workshops: a lighting - advanced workshop titled [\*Creating the Extraordinary out of the Ordinary\*](#) in which he will walk the students through the thought and process that goes into crafting an impactful story designed to be consumed on social media. The second is an open-to-all workshop titled [\*Capturing the Epic - One Step at a Time\*](#) which will be a three hour session where Von Wong will walk the students through how he put together some of his most iconic projects - from pre-production, to shoot, to post-production. The session will include a live demo on stage, taking an image from start to finish.

*Workshops are now available to book [online](#). For the Early Bird 10% discount book before **20 December, 2016**.*

Every year, GPP Photo Week creates an accessible entry point into the world of photography for people from all backgrounds. The festival provides attendees with a holistic photography experience, giving photographers - professionals, amateurs, and enthusiasts alike - an opportunity to engage with photography as an art form while immersing themselves in Dubai's burgeoning art scene and forging new connections with fellow photographers from around the world.

For more information on GPP Photo Week 2017, please visit our website on: [www.gulfphotoplus.com/gpp/2017](http://www.gulfphotoplus.com/gpp/2017)

To join the conversation, please follow us, @gulfphotoplus, on our social media channels listed below:

**[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Vimeo](#) | [YouTube](#)**



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### **Notes to editors:**

#### **About GPP Photo Week:**

Organised by Gulf Photo Plus (GPP), GPP Photo Week was launched in 2004 as the region's first-ever international photography festival. Coming to its 13th edition, GPP Photo Week 2017 will run from **February 10 – 17, 2017** and will take place at Alserkal Avenue in Al Quoz. The festival is a week-long event that unites internationally renowned photographers across a range of disciplines with professional and amateur photographers looking to develop their photography knowledge and skills.

For more information, please visit <http://www.gulfphotoplus.com/gpp2017>

#### **About Gulf Photo Plus (GPP)**

Gulf Photo Plus is Dubai's only dedicated photography centre. It aims to nurture and develop the photography community both within the UAE and the region. With a primary focus on running workshops, seminars, and events that encourage learning and skill development, Gulf Photo Plus has also garnered a reputation as a leader in photography events both in the Gulf region and internationally. With the annual GPP Photo Week festival each spring, regular workshops and community events throughout the year, and the recently added PopUp GPP events highlighting the annual calendar, GPP continues to push the envelope and foster personal and community growth in the larger photography world.

GPP's central programme is complemented with several additional events including photography exhibitions, movie nights, inspirational talks, and SlideFest evenings where developing artists can share projects and find further inspiration.

For more information about the events and Gulf Photo Plus activities please visit

[www.gulfphotoplus.com](http://www.gulfphotoplus.com) or telephone +971 4 380 8545.

Gulf Photo Plus is open from 10am to 7pm from Sunday – Wednesday and from 10am to 6pm on Thursdays and Saturdays.



### **About Alserkal Avenue**

Located in Al Quoz, Dubai, Alserkal Avenue is the region's foremost arts and culture neighbourhood. Since it was established in 2007, Alserkal Avenue has grown to become an essential platform for the development of homegrown artistic and cultural initiatives, supporting a vibrant community of contemporary art galleries and alternative art spaces, together with design, media and industrial studios. In 2015, in addition to its commitment to the community, Alserkal Avenue affirmed its position as an arts organisation with the launch of Alserkal Avenue Programming. The programming arm produces an annual homegrown programme for local, regional, and international audiences, working primarily with artists living and working in the MENASA region. An Artists' Residency is scheduled to launch in 2017, further enhancing the organisation's breadth and scope.

[www.alserkalavenue.ae](http://www.alserkalavenue.ae)