

HER

by Matilde Gattoni

Opening night **September 14, 2015, 7 PM**

Exhibition runs through **October 31, 2015**

Alserkal Avenue, Unit 36, Street 8, Al Quoz, Dubai



About the exhibition

Throughout her career spanning 15 years, 35 countries and 4 continents, photographer Matilde Gattoni has had the unique opportunity to encounter thousands of women from all corners of the world, from explorers in Dubai to war refugees in Kenya, Eritrea and Lebanon, from cluster bomb victims in Laos to tsunami survivors in Indonesia, from victims of domestic violence to land grabbing evictees. Despite their very different backgrounds and cultures, Matilde managed to build a strong connection with all of them by witnessing the life-changing events they experienced and the impact it had on their existence.

As disparate as their stories might seem, all of the women Matilde has portrayed share an innate capacity of resilience and courage, no matter what difficulties they had to face. Although shunned and marginalized in many countries, they are often the hidden backbone of families and communities. This exhibition is a tribute to their bravery and capacity to deal

with apparently insurmountable challenges, be they war, natural calamity, or the prejudices that exist within their own society. HER is an ode to all of these women.

About Matilde Gattoni

Matilde Gattoni (b. 1974) is an award-winning French-Italian photographer. Matilde started her career in 2000, covering the second Intifada in Palestine. She was then commissioned by the UN to cover the consequences of war and drought on the local populations in Eritrea and Tajikistan. Since then, Matilde has been focusing her work on human rights issues around the world, especially in war-torn countries.

Her 2002 book Uzbekistan, 10 years after independence, was written in collaboration with Pakistani journalist Ahmed Rashid, one of the major experts of Central Asia and Afghanistan. The book depicts the social frame of Uzbekistan after its independence from the USSR and outlines the future of one of the most powerful countries in Central Asia.

Matilde's stories are published regularly on Time, Time Lightbox, The Financial Times, Der Spiegel, The Observer, Die Zeit, NEON, Geo, The Guardian, Vanity Fair, ELLE and GQ, among others.

She has been awarded the IPA, Px3, Lens Culture Award, the Invisible Photographer of Asia, the International Color Award and the San Francisco International Award.

Matilde's work has been exhibited at The European Parliament in Brussels, The Backlight Festival in Tampere, The Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles, La Feltrinelli in Milan and Rome, Gallery Photographica in San Francisco, Fondazione Pirelli in Milan, 305 Sauraran in Toronto. Matilde has a M. A. in History and History of the Art at the University of Strasbourg, France.

About Gulf Photo Plus

Gulf Photo Plus (GPP) is Dubai's Photography Centre, dedicated to developing the knowledge and appreciation of photography through education, exhibitions, and a variety of events held throughout the year. Over the course of ten years, GPP has garnered an international reputation as a leader in photography events. It exists at the epicenter of the photography community in the MENA region, and continues to develop its international presence through its GPP PopUp events held around the world from Seattle to Singapore. GPP's annual calendar includes photography exhibitions, movie nights, free artist talks, regular photography workshops, and Slidefest evenings where local creatives can share personal projects and find new inspiration.

For further information about the exhibition, please, contact:

Anna Arutyunova

anna@gulfphotoplus.com

T: +971 4 380 8545

M: +971 56 182913

