

From April 14 to May 23, 2020,  
in the wake of global lockdown,  
Alice Mogabgab Galleries, Beirut & Brussels,  
present the first online exhibition

**Houda Kassatly**

*The Refugee's Camps in Lebanon,  
the Unsustainable Precarity  
Photographs.*



Bekaa 2018

*A brotherhood in misery, a destiny welded in precariousness, a complicity to thwart the implacable verdict of the world's gods. This is now the inexorable bond that, day after day, closes the ranks of the Lebanese with those of their imposed hosts: the grandsons of the Palestine refugees and the children of the Syria migrants.*

*Three peoples who constitute the soul of the Levant. Three sensibilities rich in history, exchanges, know-how and traditions. But also three tragically misgoverned fates.*

*Violence, which continues to pour into their countries, has finally destroyed what was, for a brief moment in history, a century ago, a project for the future, a homeland.*

*Here, they are trapped in issues that go far beyond their resources, victims of the blindness and criminal machinations of their elites.*

*The same precarity, the same misery begins to direct them towards the great fraternity of the damned of the Earth, far beyond the populist gesticulations and racist barking of their leaders.*

*Tetanzed and lonely in their double confinement imposed by the Covid 19 and by the complete bankruptcy of their country, the Lebanese people now take another look at their hosts. It is this look that Houda Kassatly saw and captured as a pioneer, and that she offers through her photographs in this exhibition on the abjectly ferociousness of poverty and the sublime beauty of childhood innocence, on the horizon closed to life in its simplest expression and hope for a bright future.*

Alice Mogabgab Karam

Because the Gallery perceives its commitment towards its audience as an act of faith, the faith in the power of art and the power of artist to change our world view, the faith in the courage of women and men in facing injustice, the faith in enlightened breakthroughs, it will join during the year 2020, that of Greater Lebanon centenary, to all Lebanese who fight daily for their present, their future and that of their children. A future that is only possible in the rebirth of Greater Lebanon, our homeland, for a new century of freedom, justice and dignity, and because the creative power of the artist will always triumph over the destructive forces of evil.

Alice Mogabgab Galleries Beirut - Brussels. [www.alicemogabgab.com](http://www.alicemogabgab.com) [Beirut@alicemogabgab.com](mailto:Beirut@alicemogabgab.com) / [Brussels@alicemogabgab.com](mailto:Brussels@alicemogabgab.com)

**Contact Médias** MIRROS Communication & Media Services :

Joumana Rizk [joumana@mirrosme.com](mailto:joumana@mirrosme.com) / Karine Jabaji [karine@mirrosme.com](mailto:karine@mirrosme.com)



Bekaa 2018



Borj el Barajneh 2012

*The Refugee's Camps in Lebanon, the Unsustainable Precarity*, photographs by Houda Kassatly is the first online exhibition of the Alice Mogabgab Gallery. Originally planned in Beirut premises, it will take place from April 14 to May 23, 2020 on the website [www.alicemogabgabgallery.com](http://www.alicemogabgabgallery.com) and will feature a set of hundred photographs taken by the artist between 2012 and 2019 in various camps in Lebanon.

Through landscapes, interior scenes, still lives and portraits, the exhibition tackles the major themes of life inside the camps: from the architecture to daily life of refugees, from the identity of the populations to their uncertain future... Houda Kassatly denounces the infamous, questions consciences while magnifying humanity.

**Houda Kassatly**, born in Beirut in 1960, graduated with a DEA in Philosophy from the University of Paris I Pantheon - Sorbonne in 1984. In 1987, she completed a doctoral thesis in Ethnology and Comparative Sociology at the University of Paris X - Nanterre. In 1986, back in her hometown, her professional life was devoted to research and photography; she was an international expert on the European MEDINA project, a researcher attached to the University of Balamand and the Interdisciplinary Memory Research Unit at Saint-Joseph University, as well as an associate researcher at the CERMOC (Centre d'Etudes sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain). For ten years, she was responsible for the Information-Communication, Capitalization and now the culture program of 'arcenciel', an association working for sustainable development.

Her training in ethnology sharpens her eye on social traditions, architectural heritage, environment and day to day life. This training goes hand in hand with photography, which she has been practicing and perfecting since her teens, making her the first female artist-photographer in Lebanon. In 1987, the photo library (phototèque) of the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris acquired a hundred of her photographs. In 1992 the Institut du Monde Arabe hosted her first personal exhibition. Since then, Houda Kassatly's photos have been regularly exhibited in galleries and art centers in Beirut and Europe.

#### Five exhibitions:

- January 30 – March 21: *Dalieh the Threatened Shore*.
- April 14 – May 23: *Refugee's Camps in Lebanon, the Unsustainable Precarity*.
  - June 9 – July 25: *Tripoli of the Orient; Plural City*.
  - September 15 – October 31: *Sacred Trees, Sacrificed Trees*.
- November 10 – December 26: *Beirut the Iconography of an Absence*.

Alice Mogabgab Galleries Beirut - Brussels. [www.alicemogabgab.com](http://www.alicemogabgab.com) [Beirut@alicemogabgab.com](mailto:Beirut@alicemogabgab.com) / [Brussels@alicemogabgab.com](mailto:Brussels@alicemogabgab.com)

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