



**RANIA MATAR**  
**A GIRL AND HER ROOM**

01.07.11 - 23.07.11



*Ellice 20, Jamaica Plain MA. Archival pigment print, 2010. 71cm x 107 cm*

## **Rania Matar** **A Girl and her Room**

The Arab-American photographer Rania Matar brings her award-winning series of images, *A Girl and her Room*, to the UK for the first time. This series features intimate photographic portraits of teenage girls in their most personal space, their bedroom.

This project began by Matar photographing her teenage daughter with her friends. She soon realised the girls were very conscious of each other in the way they behaved and represented themselves when together. From there emerged the idea of photographing each girl alone in her personal space, where she would give a more honest representation of her personality.

Matar took as her subjects teenage girls from the two worlds she experienced herself as a teenager and a young twenty year old, making this project very personal: the Middle East and the United States. She became fascinated by how girls face similar issues at that age, regardless of culture, religion and background, as they learn to deal with the pressures that arise when they become increasingly aware of the surrounding world, wherever this may be.

Matar comments: "In my images I hope to portray the chasm between childhood and adulthood and the young women straddling it, sometimes as rebels, sometimes as young ladies aware of their newfound sexuality and very often still as children. Being with those young women in the privacy of their world gave me a unique peek into their private lives and their real selves. They sense that I am not judging them, that I am not there to make them someone they are not, and the photography session ends up being a beautiful collaboration. The girls completely understand the project and I follow their leads."

Matar's work focuses mainly on women and women's issues. Her previous work has looked at women and children in the Middle East, and her projects – which examine the Palestinian refugee camps, the spread of the veil and its meanings, the aftermath of war, and the Christians of the Middle East – intend to give a voice to people who have been forgotten or misunderstood.

---

Born and raised in Lebanon, Rania Matar moved to America in 1984 where she studied art and architecture at Cornell University. She later studied photography at the New England School of Photography and at the Maine Photographic Workshops in Mexico with Magnum photographer Constantine Manos.

In addition to working as a full-time photographer and teacher of documentary photography at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, she also teaches photography in the summer to teenage girls in Lebanon's refugee camps.

Her work has won several awards, has been featured in numerous publications, and exhibited widely in the U.S. and internationally. Her images are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Contemporary Photography Collection of the Worcester Museum of Art; the Portland Art Museum, Oregon; the De Cordova Museum and Sculpture Park; the Danforth Museum of Art; the Kresge Art Museum; the Southeast Museum of Photography; and is part of numerous private collections including that of the Emir of Kuwait.

---

**A Girl and her Room is Matar's second show at The Mosaic Rooms.**  
Rania Matar will give a talk at the Mosaic Rooms on Saturday 2 July 2011 at 12pm.  
RSVP [info@mosaicrooms.org](mailto:info@mosaicrooms.org) 020 7370 9990



*Anna 18 - Winchester.* Archival pigment print, 2010. 71cm x 107 cm



*Stephanie 15 - Beirut.* Archival pigment print, 2010. 71cm x 107 cm



Reem 19 - Lebanon. Archival pigment print, 2010. 71cm x 107 cm



Jess 20 - Boston. Archival pigment print, 2010. 71cm x 107 cm



## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

9-28 September

### **Nedda El-Asmar-The Passion of Simplicity**

An exhibition by the award winning Belgian-Palestinian designer and silversmith to coincide with the London Design Festival and 100% Design.

7-28 October

### **Fadi Yazigi**

Recent paintings and sculpture by the internationally acclaimed Syrian artist.

4-25 November

### **Ariella Azoulay-Made Public**

For the first time in the UK photographs will be on show from the Israeli military archive documenting the first five years of the State and its relationship with its remaining Palestinians.

The Mosaic Rooms also has a series of artists talks, literature events, and film screenings each month.

For further information visit our website [www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org) and sign up to our monthly e-newsletter!



Elham 18 - Shatila, Beirut. Archival pigment print, 2010. 71cm x 107 cm

Exhibition open Mon-Fri 11-6pm, Sat 11-4pm



Nearest Underground station: Earl's Court (Earl's Court Road exit)

Buses: 74, 328, C1, C3

Parking: One disabled parking space is available by prior arrangement.

Parking meters are available in Lexham Gardens behind the building.

the  
mosaic  
rooms



The Mosaic Rooms brings some of the most exciting, progressive and innovative contemporary creative voices in the Middle East to London.

The Mosaic Rooms  
226 Cromwell Road  
London SW5 0SW  
[www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org)

cover: Alia 19 - Beirut. Detail. Archival pigment print, 2010. 71cm x 107 cm