

FFOTOIMAGE

RITA LEISTNER

(b. 1964, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada)

EDUCATION

- 1999-2000 International Center of Photography, New York
1988-1990 M.A. (Comparative Literature in French and English) University of Toronto
1983-1988 B.A. University of Toronto; included a term abroad at the University of Grenoble, France

LANGUAGES PROFICIENCIES: English, French, Spanish, elementary Arabic and German

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *Three Landscapes in the Levant*, Fotofestiwal Lodz, Poland
Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan: From Smartphone to Palladium, The Paul Paletti Gallery, Louisville, KY, USA
- 2015 *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan: From Smartphone to Palladium*, Photoville Photography Festival, Brooklyn, NY, USA
Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan: From Smartphone to Palladium, The Dylan Ellis Gallery, CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, ON, Canada
Miklat: The Bomb Shelter Project, Senate Gallery, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel
- 2014 *Portraits-paysages: Liban: 2006*, Festival Allers-Retours, Musée Albert Kahn, Paris, France
Le Projet Edward Curtis, Le Musée du Nouveau Monde, La Rochelle, France
À la recherche de Marshall McLuhan en Afghanistan, Le Carré Amelot, espace culturel de la Ville de La Rochelle, France
- 2013 *The Edward Curtis Project*, The National Arts Centre, Ottawa, ON, Canada
- 2010 *The Edward Curtis Project*, Feature Exhibition of the Cultural Olympiad of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, The North Vancouver Museum, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 2008 *Les derniers bûcherons*, Galerie Pierre Léon, L'Alliance française de Toronto, ON, Canada
- 2009 *My Space*, W2 Community Media Arts, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 2007 *Portraitscapes of War: Lebanon 2006*, The Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 2006 *The Women of al Rashad*, Gallery Gachet, World Mad Pride Feature Exhibition, Vancouver, BC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Ecocentrix: Indigenous Arts, Sustainable Acts*, The Bargehouse, London, England
Portraits by Iconic Canadian Photographers, CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, ON
- 2012 *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*, The Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey, Ankara, Turkey
- 2011 *Unembedded*, The Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey, Sulleymaniya, Kurdistan, Iraq
- 2009 The Annenberg Space for Photography, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2008 *Iraq Through the Lens of Vietnam*, The Brighton Photo Biennial, England
- 2007 *Know War!* The George Eastman House International Museum of Photography, Rochester, NY
- 2006 *Unembedded*, The Photographic Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Unembedded, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

SELECTED BOOK PUBLICATIONS

- 2014 Leistner, Rita. *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*. Foreword by Julian Stallabrass. London: Intellect Books / The University of Chicago Press, February 2014.
- 2013 Leistner, Rita. "Embedded with Murders." *Memories of Fire: Images of War and the War of Images*. Ed. Julian Stallabrass. London: Photoworks, 2013. 82-99.
- 2013 Leistner, Rita. "Rita Leistner." Ed. Michael Kamber. *The Untold Stories from Iraq: Photojournalists on War*. Austin: University of Texas Press, Spring 2013. 156-162
- 2010 Leistner, Rita and Marie Clements. *The Edward Curtis Project: A Modern Picture Story*. Vancouver: Talon Books, 2010.
- 2006 Leistner, Rita. "Detained." *Suspect*. Ed. John Knechtel. Cambridge: MIT Press and Alphabet City Media, 2006. 96-107.
- 2005 Leistner, Rita and Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, Kael Alford and Thorne Anderson. *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*. Foreword by Philip Jones Griffiths. Vermont: Chelsea Green, 2005.

SELECTED EXHIBITION CATALOGS

- 2015 Leistner, Rita, *Miklat* (English and Hebrew). Ed. Haim Maor. Ben Gurion University of the Negev Department of the Arts Press, Israel, 2015.
- 2014 Leistner, Rita, "Portraits-paysages de guerre" (French). *Les âmes grises: récits photographiques d'après-guerre* (French). Ed. Valérie Perlès. Festival allers-retours, Musée Albert Kahn, 2014.

SELECTED PERIODICALS

Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, The Walrus, The New York Times, GEO France, Libération, Time, Newsweek, The Los Angeles Times, The Australian Journal of Photojournalism, The Globe and Mail, Maclean's, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Phnom Penh Post, Up Here (the magazine of Canada's arctic), Alphabet City, Mother Jones, the Literary Review of Canada, ZUM: Revista de Fotografia (Brazil), Colors, Chinese Photography Magazine, and many more.

FILMS

- 2013 *Miklat*. Dir. Rita Leistner. Short Documentary.
Selected Official Selections: New Orleans International Film Festival, International Film Festival of Cinematic Arts, Winnipeg Reel to Real Film Festival, American Documentary Film Festival

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2015 Associate Fellow, Victoria University in the University of Toronto (since 2010)
- 2012 Victoria University Conference Grant, *The Pictures from Syria*
Shortlisted for Massey Fellowship, University of Toronto
- 2010 Canada Council for the Arts, Visual Arts Project Grant, *Miklat*
- 2009 Ontario Arts Council Exhibition Production Grant, *Les derniers bûcherons*
- 2008 Shortlisted for Carter Foundation for Mental Health Journalism Fellowship, *Al Rashad*
Ben & Jerry's Foundation Exhibition Grant, *Unembedded*
- 2007 Arts Partners In Development Project Grant, *The Edward Curtis Project*
- 2003 Canada Council for the Arts Exhibition Travel Grant to Visa pour L'image, Perpignan, France
- 2003 Rory Peck Trust Bursary for Hostile Environment Training

SELECTED AWARDS & HONOURS

Winner of three Canadian National Magazine Awards Gold Medals
Finalist for three Media Ecology Association Awards for *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*
Winner of two Design Club of Canada Awards
Winner of a 2014 IndieFilm Short Documentary Award, for *Miklat*
Winner of a 2013 Best Shorts Documentary Film Award of Excellence for *Miklat*
Winner, Portraits, 2009 PX3 Prix de la Photo, Paris, France
Nominated for a Courage in Journalism Award, Women In Journalism Organization, 2005

SELECTED REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS & PROFILES OF RITA LEISTNER

- 2016 *One Picture at a Time*, short film about Rita Leistner, by award-winning director Sarah Martin
"Rita Leistner's Quest for Marshall McLuhan," *ARTORONTO*, May 16 2015
- 2014 "Rita Leistner and a Smartphone in Afghanistan," *Chinese Photography*, June 2014
"Confessions of a Digital Naïve," *Media and Culture Reviews*, July 16 2014
"A New War a New Medium," *Source: The Photographic Review*, London, Spring 2014
"First New Book of 2014 is a Doosie!" The International Center of Photography Library Blog, January 2014
"Les âmes grises: récits photographiques d'après-guerre," *Le Monde*, Paris, July 5, 2014
- 2012 "ReFramed: In Conversation with Rita Leistner," *The Los Angeles Times*, July 18, 2012
- 2011 "The Frozen Bodies of Edward S. Curtis," *The Literary Review of Canada*, April 2011
"Rita Leistner: Photography and Activism," *Canadian Art*, Web Features video, Fall 2011

TEACHING 2010 – Present, Lecturer, The University of Toronto (Fall Terms only)
Helped create the Program in Creative Expression & Society at U of T

SELECTED GUEST TEACHING, PUBLIC LECTURES AND PANELS

- 2016 University of Lodz, School of Media and Audio-visual Culture, Lodz, Poland
Jagiellonian University of Cracow, Poland
Roberto Mata Taller, Caracas, Venezuela
- 2015 Photoville Festival, Brooklyn, NY, USA
Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, ON
The School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
The Bronx Documentary Center, New York, NY
Ryerson University, Converge Lecture Series, Toronto, ON
The University of Beer Sheva, Israel
- 2014 The International Center of Photography, New York, NY
The Northrop Frye Centre, The University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Spur Festival, Art & War panel, Toronto, ON
L'université de La Rochelle, France

COLLECTIONS

Imago Mundi Luciano Benetton Collection, Italy
The George Eastman House International Museum of Photography, Rochester, NY, USA
Comanche National Museum, Oklahoma, USA
Le musée du nouveau monde, La Rochelle, France
The North Vancouver Museum, BC, Canada