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Nazar is an Arabic word meaning “seeing, insight, reflection.”



**APERTURE ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL EXHIBITION IN NEW GALLERY:**

**NAZAR  
PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ARAB WORLD**

**SEPTEMBER 9–NOVEMBER 3, 2005**

New York, NY—August 22, 2005—The inaugural exhibition at Aperture Foundation’s new gallery is a multifaceted view of the Arab world seen through the eyes of seventeen contemporary Arab photographers. The largest collection of photographs about Arab cultures ever exhibited in the West, *Nazar* offers a fresh, revealing, and personal record of everyday Arab life that transcends the romanticized and politicized images that saturate contemporary media. The exhibition will also include a multi-media presentation entitled “A Look Back,” featuring historical work from Arab countries and Fondation Arabe pour L’Image archive in Beirut.

*Nazar* was brought to the U.S. from the Noorderlicht Photography Foundation in The Netherlands and had its American debut at FotoFest, Houston to critical acclaim in the spring of 2005. The exhibition provides an insight into the cultural, political, social, religious, economic, and aesthetic forces that have determined the evolution of photography—both documentary and fine art—from North Africa, Lebanon and Palestine, to Egypt, Syria and Bahrain. Ranging from passionately documentary to technically innovative to subversively banal, these images challenge preconceived views about the region. The first survey of this magnitude, *Nazar* will be a revelation to viewers and a welcome introduction to an unfamiliar but increasingly vital center of photography.



The accompanying book of the same title (Aperture, September 2005), edited by Wim Melis, the curator of the Noorderlicht Photofestival and organizer of the exhibition, includes essays by seven international writers that explore diverse facets of this rich range of imagery by photographers previously little known outside the Middle East.

**Artists in Exhibition**

Hicham Benohoud (Morocco)  
Nabil Boutros (Egypt/France)  
Hichem Driss (Tunisia)  
Lalla Essaydi (Morocco/US)  
Khaled Tarek Fazaa (Yemen)  
Tarek Al-Ghoussein (Palestine/Kuwait)  
Rawi Hage (Lebanon/Canada)  
Rula Halawani (Palestine)  
Farida Hamak (Algeria/France)  
Noel Jabbour (Palestine)  
Ahmed Jadallah (Palestine)  
Van Leo (Egypt)  
Youssef Nabil (Egypt)  
Randa Shaath (US/Egypt)  
Anas Al-Shaikh (Bahrain)  
Greta Torossian (Lebanon)  
Issa Touma (Syria)

**Gallery Hours:** Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (except on opening nights and holidays)

**Gallery Address:** 547 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, N.Y. 10001

**About the authors**

Michket Krifa is a Tunisian-born free-lance writer and curator living in Paris. Negar Azimi is an independent writer and curator. She is also an editor of New York based *Bidoun* magazine. Issam Nassar is co-director of the Institute for Jerusalem Studies in Jerusalem. Isolde Brielmaier teaches at Vassar College in New York. Issa Touma is founder and director of the international photo festival in Aleppo, Syria—the first to be held in the Middle East. Peter Lewis is an artist and free-lance curator living in London. Sherifa Zuhur is professor of national security at the Strategic Studies Institute of the United States Army War College.

**Book specifications**

168 four-color and 132 duotone images

Hardcover

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9 x 9 inches, 268 pages

\$40.00, £22.00

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