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# Realism in Rawiya

PHOTOGRAPHIC  
STORIES FROM  
THE MIDDLE EAST

18 February to 16 May 2015

Rawiya, meaning 'she who tells a story' in Arabic, is the first all-female photographic collective to emerge from the Middle East. *Realism in Rawiya* features the work of members Myriam Abdelaziz, Tanya Habjouqa, Tamara Abdul Hadi, Laura Boushnak, Dalia Khamissy, and Newsha Tavakolian.

Established in 2009, the collective aims to provide a supportive platform for female photographers in the Middle East. Members are united in their desire to tell the stories of their region from their own viewpoint. They hope to address misrepresentations by the global press, which they have observed whilst working as photojournalists across the Middle East.

The photographers witness international events through a local eye, resulting in a personal photographic insight into everyday life in the Middle East. Many members of Rawiya live the stories they tell. Dalia Khamissy's work *The Missing: Lebanon* echoes her own experience of her father's kidnap when she was seven-years old and Myriam Abdelaziz

captures the Egyptian Revolution as a person actively taking part in the uprising. Newsha Tavakolian states that the work of Rawiya offers 'a way of breathing within the smothering world of censorship'.

The exhibition curators, Saleem Arif Quadri MBE and Melanie Kidd, state that '*Realism in Rawiya* offers personal and honest reflections of life within the Middle East, reflecting on social and political issues and stereotypes. The exhibition focuses on identity and gender, presenting the wider stories often overlooked by the mainstream global media'.

*Realism in Rawiya* is a touring exhibition by New Art Exchange (NAE), Nottingham, curated by NAE and Saleem Arif Quadry.

To find out more read the exhibition guide, browse our reading area or buy an accompanying publication from our shop at the special exhibition price of £5.

 @impgalleryphoto #Rawiya

 Impressions Gallery



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