



# the mosaic rooms

## ORDINARY LIVES

AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
**RANIA MATAR**

**6 - 26 November 2009 (except 18, 19 and 20)**

Monday - Friday 11am - 6pm, Tuesdays and Saturdays 11am - 4pm

*"In these photos I concentrate on people who did not lose their humanity and dignity despite what they have been and continue to go through. I try to portray them as the beautiful individuals they are and concentrate on the spirit with which they perform the mundane tasks of daily life no matter what their circumstances."* Rania Matar

*"No one will forget the women and children in [these images], the ordinary lives in times that are cursed by being anything but ordinary."* Anthony Shadid



Lebanon is a country built upon dichotomies. It is a blend of cultures, poised at the intersection between the Western and the Arab worlds. Born in Beirut and living in the West, photographer Rania Matar is especially attuned to those dichotomies. Here she honors the lives of women and children in Lebanon in evocative black-and-white photographs. They convey the many facets of life, acknowledging the undeniable presence of war and tragedy, yet celebrating the strength, dignity, and humanity of lives lived amidst the rubble, in refugee camps, or behind the veil. The images are universal, powerful reminders of the tender bond between a mother and child, the cheerful camaraderie of friends, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Rania Matar was born and raised in Lebanon and moved to the US in 1984. Originally trained as an architect, she studied at the New England School of Photography and at the Maine Photographic Workshops in Mexico. Matar was a finalist for the James and Audrey Foster Award at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

Her work was recently exhibited at the Center for Contemporary Arts in Abilene Texas, the Koppelman Gallery at Tufts University, the Chicago Cultural Center and Gallery Kayafas in Boston. Matar's images are part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Portland Art Museum Oregon, the Southeast Museum of Photography, the De Cordova Museum, the Danforth Museum of Art, the Kresge Art Museum, the Anthony and Beth Terrana Collection and the John Cleary Estate Collection.

A book based on the photographs in the exhibition, including excerpts from the celebrated Palestinian American poet Lisa Majaj and an introduction by Pulitzer-Prize winner Anthony Shadid will be available for sale, as will all the photographs.

Entrance Free  
Open Monday - Friday 11 - 6  
Tuesdays 11 - 4, Saturdays 11 - 5  
For further information, please  
call 0207 370 9990 or email us on  
[info@mosaicrooms.org](mailto:info@mosaicrooms.org)

All works will be available for  
purchase.

**Directions:** The Mosaic Rooms,  
Tower House, 226 Cromwell Road,  
London SW5 0SW.  
Nearest Tube: Earl's Court (Earl's  
Court Road Exit).  
Buses: 74, 328, C1, C3.  
One disabled parking space is  
available by prior arrangement only.  
Please call us. Otherwise, metres are  
available nearby in Lexham Gardens.

[www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org)



The Mosaic Rooms is an AM  
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