

Schneider Gallery, Inc.

September 17 – October 30, 2010

In-between

Portraits of Teenagers Around the World

Reception: Friday, Sept. 17
5:00 – 7:30 pm



The Schneider Gallery is pleased to present the work of Natan Divir and Rania Matar. These two photographers have as much in common as they risk to have in conflict; Divir was born in Israel and Matar in Lebanon. Both photograph teenagers in their protected spaces, often the home or bedroom.

In Divir's project, *Eighteen*, he crosses to "the other side" to photograph young Palestinians. Matar had intended to focus on American teenage girls in *A Girl and Her Room*, but could not ignore her strong personal connection to the Middle East and some images are of Lebanese and Palestinian teenagers.

When paralleled their work reveals the similarity of young people everywhere. These adolescents are caught between child and adult; their personalities appear to be forming before our eyes. Some seem calm, confident, or even off in a dream, while others appear defiant, severe, even contemptuous. These differences at times rest within the nature of the frame itself, particularly with the inherent baggage of an Israeli photographer in the private space of a Palestinian teen, though it is not always the case. One of Matar's American teens dressed in an oversized sweater and torn black stockings twirls her red hair and stares at us with cool defiance from the foot of her closet door. Even if they remain guarded, trust in the other, the outsider, the adult, must be given by every subject to the photographer.

While each photographer takes a different approach and vantage what their work does together is of tremendous power. We come away with a certainty in the universal make-up of teens. Despite geographic, cultural, or religious differences is the underlying reality of shared experience- the search for self identity and need for sanctuary.

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