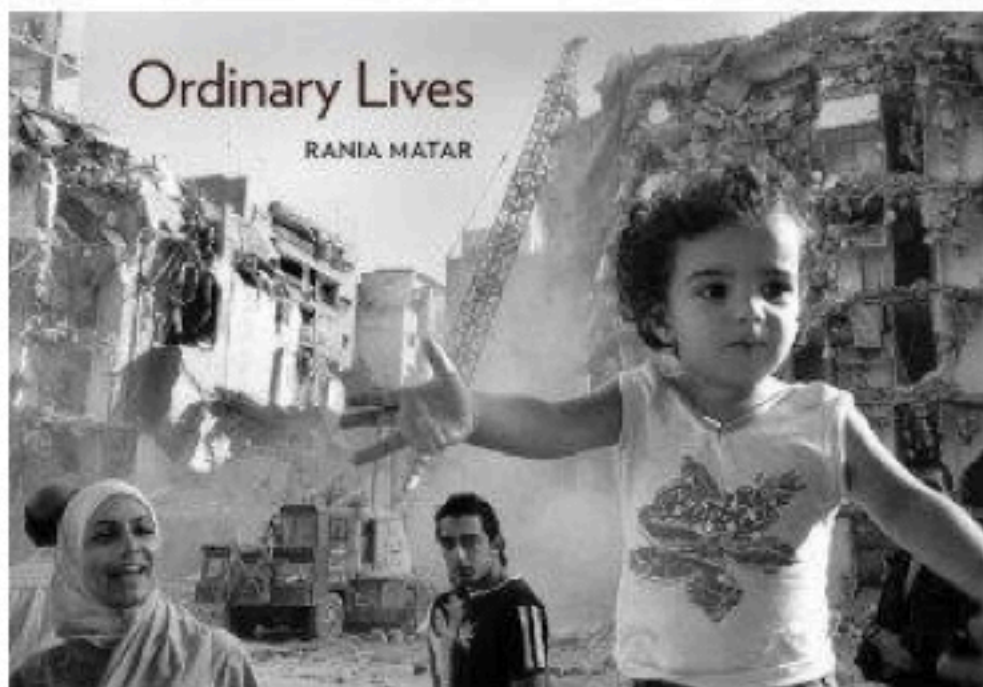


Photo Book Reviews:

By Elizabeth Powis



Ordinary Lives By Rania Matar

This is a book of the many images Rania Matar has taken of Lebanon. Born and raised in Lebanon, then moving to the United States in 1984, Matar is the perfect observer to a country of people who intertwine the culture of the consumer West and the Islamic East. Her images, mostly portraits of the women and their lives, convey the variety of conditions and styles across Lebanon. There is one image showing a young woman dressed in a tight sequined, tiny-t-shirt getting her eyebrows done by a woman, presumably her elder, dressed in a conservative head scarf. Another image shows a war-created hole in the wall, serving as a frame to the image of another building across the street. Matar's goal was to create a perspective for Westerners to see the humanity and individual lives that are determined to prevail in a war-torn country. The images are proven to be a success because of her ability to pass on to the viewers her intimate connections with her subjects. Looking through the images of this book give any photographer or non-photographer a better understanding of the lives of women and children in the Middle East, specifically Lebanon.

- **Hardcover:** 128 pages
- **Publisher:** [Quantuck Lane Press](#) (November 17, 2009)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 1593720378
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1593720377
- **Product Dimensions:** 12 x 8.2 x 0.8 inches

Text: A+

Layout: A+

Photography: A+

User: All Photographers and Non-photographers