

Photo ready

Daytona State holds photo exhibition. PAGE 1E

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2012 ♦ SECTION E WWW.GO386.COM

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PHOTO READY



Two new Daytona State College exhibits showcase the art of photography, old and new — Pages 4-5E

"Christilla, Rabieh, Lebanon 2010" by Rania Matar. The photo is one of the works in the exhibit "A Girl and Her Room," opening today and on display through Dec. 14 at the Southeast Museum of Photography in Daytona Beach.



"King of Speed" by R.L. Coursen. The photo is one of the works in the exhibit "Edge to Edge: Vintage Panoramic Photography in Florida," on display through Dec. 14 at the Southeast Museum of Photography.

Photos courtesy of Southeast Museum of Photography

INSIDE: Golden age of radio recreated in Ormond Beach this weekend — Page 3E

ALL VISIONS NEW

Photos capture girls caught 'between two worlds'

By **RICK de YAMPERT**
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

When photographer Rania Matar began one of her recent projects, she soon realized each of her subjects was "a person on the edge between two worlds."

Those two worlds weren't Matar's native Lebanon and her adopted homeland, the United States.

Rather, as Matar photographed first her own teenage daughters and then other girls, she soon realized in each case that she was "discovering a person on the cusp of becoming an adult, but desperately holding on to the child she barely outgrew, a person on the edge between two worlds."

The resulting photos are on display in "A Girl and Her Room," an exhibit that opens today at the Southeast Museum of Photography in Daytona Beach. The photos also have been published in a book with the same title.

Matar, who moved to the United States in 1984, will speak at an opening reception and book signing from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the museum.

"As a mother of teenage daughters I watch their passage from girlhood into adulthood, fascinated with the transformation taking place, the adult personality shaping up and a self-consciousness now replacing the carefree world they had known and lived in so far," Matar said in an artist's statement accompanying the exhibit. "I started photographing them and their girlfriends, and quickly realized that they were very aware of each other's presence, and that their being in a group affected very much whom they were portraying to the world."

When Matar began asking to photograph each girl by herself, a number of them chose their bedrooms. She quickly realized "that was the nexus of a project. The room was a metaphor, an extension of the girl, but also the girl seemed to be part of the room, to fit in, just



Photos courtesy of Southeast Museum of Photography

"Danielle, Boston, MA 2010" by Rania Matar. These photos are some of Matar's work in the exhibit "A Girl and Her Room," on display today through Dec. 14 at the Southeast Museum of Photography at Daytona State College.



◀ "Anna, Winchester, MA 2009"

▶ "Shannon, Boston, MA 2010"



like everything else in the room."

Matar branched out and began documenting not only her daughters and their friends, but also girls she didn't know. She eventually expanded the project "to include girls from the two worlds I am most familiar with, the two worlds I experienced myself as a teen and a young 20-year-old: the United States and the Middle East."

The project "became very personal to me," Matar said. "I became fascinated with

the similar issues girls at that age face, regardless of culture, religion and background, as they learn to deal with all the pressures that arise as they become consciously aware of the surrounding world, wherever this may be."

Karen Haas, curator of photographs for the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, said Matar uses "an artist's unerring eye and a mother's sixth sense" to "capture the horror vacui of these private spaces in all their glorious color and intricate detail."

Matar's works "somehow make us feel like privileged insiders who have inexplicably been invited past the 'Do Not Enter' sign on the door," Haas said.

Before becoming a photographer, Matar worked as an architect after studying at the American University of Beirut and Cornell University. She switched to photography after studying at the New England School of Photography and the Maine Photographic Workshops in Mexico.

A Boston resident, Matar currently teaches documentary photography at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and she teaches photography to teenage girls in Lebanon's refugee camps.

Other projects by Matar have examined the Palestinian refugee camps, the recent spread of the veil and its meanings, the aftermath of war and Christians in the Middle East.

If You Go

WHAT: "A Girl and Her Room" — photos by Rania Matar

WHERE: Southeast Museum of Photography, on the campus of Daytona State College in the Mori Hosseini Center, Building 1200, 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.

WHEN: Today through Dec. 14. Artist's talk, book signing and opening reception 6 to 8 p.m. today.

MUSEUM HOURS: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday; 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. December hours: noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Nov. 22-25.

ADMISSION: Free

INFORMATION: 386-506-4475 or smponline.org