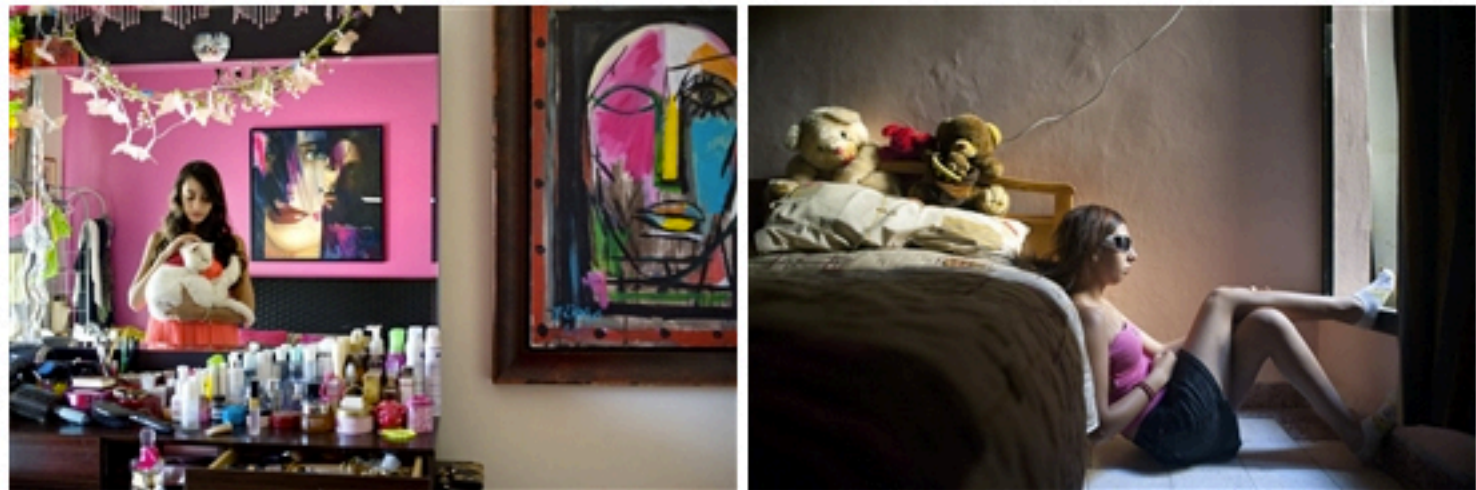


She Who Tells a Story: A Window Into the World of Female Photographers in the Middle East

Rania Matar's series "A Girl and Her Room," creates a relatable juxtaposition between the Western and Arab world, by photographing the innocent teenagers in their bedrooms. The girls are shown reclining around stuffed animals, pin-up posters, and bottles of nail polish, in scenes that could be lifted from anywhere around the world. Matar's choice to document teens for this series, (she has also photographed teenagers in the United States), gives a perspective that is untainted by the politics of society, as teenagers coming of age struggle to express themselves before social norms have fully taken hold affecting their notions of self.



Rania Matar, *Alia*, Beirut, Lebanon, 2010.

Rania Matar, *Stephanie*, Beirut, Lebanon, 2010.

"She Who Tells a Story" is a powerful exhibition that introduces the fine art world of the United States to a thriving collection of working female photographers from Iran and the Middle East. Within the context of a museum, the sensationalism associated with this part of the world in the media is left behind. The photographs are then on their own, and able to communicate a more personal, powerful message, reflecting the experiences of the artists, rather than the newspaper headlines often associated with the controversial events each woman lives through daily.