



RANIA MATAR: WHERE DO I GO?

LEICA GALLERY BOSTON

With her *Where Do I Go?* series, the American Lebanese photographer has composed a love letter to the women of Lebanon, her home country. On display at the Leica Gallery in Boston until May 31, the work of the 2023 LOBA finalist depicts a self-determined image of the women, while also showing the manifold injuries and threats they face. Splinters, ruined buildings, emptiness and loneliness are all indicators of the complex reality.

2025 marked the 50th year since the beginning of the Lebanese civil war. While the country and its population still suffer the consequences of the past, current problems also weigh heavily: the aftermath of the pandemic, economic challenges, a constant fear of violent outbreaks plaguing the region, as well as the deep sorrow following the devastating Beirut Harbour explosion. The precarious situation has led to many people leaving their homes.

In 1984 Matar herself emigrated to the US. She is well aware of the incredibly difficult decision that many, and especially young people, face. Her striking portraits are a monument to the women and their resilience, opening the door to build hope and trust again. *Where Do I Go?* (also published as a book) – a universal question for our times.

Photo: Rania Matar, *Rianna (in the Rain)*, Bhamdoun, Lebanon 2023