

AUGUST 18, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



C. GRIMALDIS GALLERY

## Rania Matar, Invisible Children

ON VIEW: SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 22, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 6 - 8 PM



*Mohammad 7, Assaad 12, Beirut, 2014*  
archival print on Baryta paper, 19.2 x 24 inches

Baltimore, MD - C. Grimaldis Gallery is pleased to present *Invisible Children*, a solo exhibition by photographer Rania Matar. These photographs document young Syrian refugees on the streets of Beirut and third-generation Palestinian girls living in the refugee camps of Bourj el-Barajneh. Inspired by the artist's frequent visits to the capital of Lebanon, many of these photographs depict Syrian children at work: selling red roses, carrying beat-up shoe-shining equipment, often camouflaging themselves with the graffiti they stand before.

The artist notes, "Straddled by a weak economy and domestic political tensions, Lebanon is finding it hard to cope with the large influx of refugees inside its borders, making the humanitarian crisis a difficult one to resolve." Matar's work often elevates mundane, everyday moments as a way of uncovering the universal within the personal. In documenting a population of young people living invisibly within a country unable to embrace them, Matar's frank portraits seek to restore the singular identities of her subjects, intimating potential futures beyond the political crisis of their circumstance.

Rania Matar was born and raised in Lebanon and moved to the United States in 1984. Originally trained as an architect at the American University of Beirut and at Cornell University, she studied photography at the New England School of Photography and the Maine Photographic Workshops. Matar began teaching photography in 2009 and offered summer photography workshops to teenage girls in Lebanon's refugee camps with the assistance of non-governmental organizations. She now teaches Personal Documentary Photography at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and regularly offers workshops, talks, class visits and lectures at museums, galleries, schools and colleges in the US and abroad. Her work has won many awards, been featured in numerous publications, and is in the permanent collections of museums worldwide. She has exhibited widely at institutions internationally including The National Portrait Gallery, London; Carnegie Museum of Art, Boston; The Arab-American Museum, Michigan; ICA Boston; and The Amon Carter Museum of American Art (forthcoming). Matar's work was recently featured in *She Who Tells a Story: Women Photographers from Iran and the Arab World*, organized by the Museum of Fine Arts Boston at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC.

A portion of proceeds from exhibition sales will be donated to The Karam Foundation, a US-based nonprofit agency dedicated to providing the most effective ways to aid Syrian citizens. For more information, visit [www.karamfoundation.org](http://www.karamfoundation.org).

The exhibition will be on view from September 15 - October 22, 2016, and will run concurrently with a presentation of recent ceramic works by Carol Young, *Scrolls and Sheets*. An opening reception will take place on Thursday, September 15, 6-8pm.

**Press Inquiries:** Elspeth Walker, [ew@cgrimaldisgallery.com](mailto:ew@cgrimaldisgallery.com)

*C. Grimaldis Gallery has continuously operated in Baltimore since 1977. It has established itself as Baltimore's oldest contemporary art gallery, and an important venue in the region. The gallery specializes in postwar American and European art with an emphasis on contemporary sculpture.*