

« The Land in Between... »

EDUARDO LOPEZ MORENO

NURA QURESHI

MARIAGRAZIA PELLEGRINO

KA[PH]A
PHOTO COMMUNITY

PAST/PRESENT/FUTURE

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“He allowed himself to be swayed by his conviction that human beings are not born once and for all on the day their mothers give birth to them, but that life obliges them over and over again to give birth to themselves.”

Gabriel García Márquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*

“Identity and belonging are not carved in the rock” wrote a famous Polish Sociologist. Life is subject to continuous transformation. If in the past, identity, was guaranteed by birth and society was to secure that sense of belonging like a strong points to which the image of the “Self” was attached to, today more than ever that principle is questioned by the development of a new world order.

Identity moves on the ground of precariousness and ambiguity. Today’s world seems to be uncertain. Some are clinging to the past incapable of turning the boat, like the forgotten Tajiks encircled by majestic snow mountains (Nura Qureshi), some gazing at the future like the migrants who set foot on the Sicilian Island (Mariagrazia Pellegrino), few feel the urge of the present time but everyone aspires to it (Eduardo Lopez Moreno).

The “land in between” is transient and transitory, frightening and reassuring at the same time. It results, not of an individual but a collective choices, identity as a group in the midst of an ephemeral present and the reshaping an imaginary future.

Many lost or overwhelmed identities, sometimes reinvented, finding their way in the creative act of life. Fixed in time is the dream, the image subtracted from the impermanence of the real.



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"Every man is the architect of his own fortune" (Latin: *quisque faber suae fortunae*) Appius Claudius Caecus ("the blind"; c. 340 BC – 273 BC)

The question of identity, although being investigated and resolved in a very different way, is a crucial quest in the works the 3 artists present in this exhibition, a sort of act in which each one conducts his own peculiar play. Like Tajikistan, crushed between China and Central Asia, Sicily is lost between Africa and Europe, the present remains difficult to grasp, for those who can, are a minority.

Mariagrazia Pellegrino

Black and White photo, Digital Prints
Sicily 2016

Like the film of David Fedele, "The Land Between" the work of Pellegrino offers an intimate insight into the hidden and desperate lives of Sub-Saharan African migrants embarking on the perilous journey on the Mediterranean Sea. For most, their dream is to enter Europe but only few make it. Lost and proud they are not masters of their future. Regulations, laws and bureaucracy traps them in a limbo.

All along history, many places have been named the "Land in between, from Colonies to New Territories and from ethnic land to religious frontiers but never since slavery have we experienced such massive social and ethical transformations: migration. The future in this case is uncertain and harsh.

Maria Grazia Pellegrino was born in Catania (Italy) in 1975. In 2000 she graduated in Art at the Fine Arts Academy of Catania with Great Distinction. It gave her the possibility to explore different angles of this discipline.

During her academic studies she focused on contemporary art and new languages. She has experience in painting, photography, theatre/stage setting and costume design, fashion and interior design.

In 2005 she took a Master degree in Art Therapy in Milan. In 2007 she moved to Kenya investigating the contemporary art scene and culture in Kenya. She runs several workshops on "Art and Creativity" in Italy and Kenya.

She believes that images have the great power to tell stories about people, and to address symbolic meaning that can affect social communication.

She currently works on street photography and documentary films.

She has worked as a photographer for UNDP in Kenya and Somalia and as an art consultant in international schools in Nairobi.

Eduardo Lopez Moreno

Black and White and Colour Digital Prints

Winner of the Cartier-Bresson Passport Award 2017

<http://www.thepassporte.com/2017-cartierbresson-passporte-award>

Eduardo López Moreno is an architect, with a master in sociology and a PhD in urban geography. He also studied photography. He has been working as researcher about urban studies for United Nations (UN-Habitat) in the last 20 years.

In the last 3 years, he returned to photography with enthusiasm and decision. Some of his pictures have been published in UN books and reports. In 2016 he received 17 honorable mentions in the International Photography Awards Competition. Recently United Nations in Kenya organized a photo exhibition entitled "*University of Garissa: A History of Hope and Change*".

Currently, he is preparing a photography book entitled "Images of the Streets of the World's Cities" with short anthropological narratives accompanying the photos. He authored 5 books on culture, social studies and urban development. Recently he published a book on African Art with some of his pictures named *Wooden Dreams: East African Headrests* (<https://www.amazon.de/Wooden-Dreams-African-Headrests-Collection>).

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Nura Qureshi

Color Digital Prints

From the Series: "Plastic Flowers Dancing in Russia's Backyard"

Tajikistan 2011

Nura Qureshi studied Photography at the Academy of Art in San Francisco. After that period she spent eight years working as a freelance Photographer in New York City before moving to Kenya. Her range encompasses fine art photography as well as photojournalism. She was awarded a grant from "3 generations" New York to document survivors of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and has worked hand in hand with several medical aid organizations in Guatemala and Ghana. Her work has been featured in a number of group exhibitions around Europe and the United States. In 2010 she was selected by the Biennale Juried Photography Exhibit at the Edward

Hopper House in New York. In 2011 her solo show in New York City she exhibited images from her Tajik series "Plastic Flowers Dancing in Russia's Backyard". The research, in cooperation with the German Development Cooperation GIZ, explores modern day Tajikistan.

Furthermore she was teaching Photography & Visual Arts for the Brooklyn Art Council in their Arts in Education Program.

Her most recent work includes portraits of the railroad workers in Nairobi, which were featured in a group exhibition at Photowerk in Berlin in November 2015.