

BIOGRAPHY

ARTIST

Rania Matar

Rania Matar was born and raised in Lebanon and moved to the U.S. in 1984. As a Lebanese-born American/Palestinian woman and mother, Matar's cultural background, cross-cultural experience, and personal narrative inform her photography. She has dedicated her work to exploring issues of personal and collective identity, through photographs of female adolescence and womanhood. She works both in the United States where she lives and the Middle East where she is from, in an effort to focus on notions of identity and individuality all within the context of the underlying universality of these experiences.

SOLO SHOW

2026

Where Do I Go?, Eskenazi Museum of Art, Bloomington, IN*Where Do I Go?*, Leica Gallery Boston*Where Do I Go?*, Robert Klein Gallery: The Project Space, Boston

2025

SHE, Middlebury Museum of Art, Middlebury, VT

2024/23

SHE, Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL*Oceans At My Door*, Fitchburg Museum of Art, Fitchburg, MA

2021

On Either Side of the Window, Rollins Museum, Winter Park, FL

2020

An Image and Her Woman, American University of Beirut Museum, Lebanon

2019

In Her Image, Cleveland Museum of Art*Invisible Children*, Galerie Tanit, Munich, Germany

2018

In Her Image, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, TX*A Girl and Her Room*, Newport Art Museum, Newport, Rhode Island*Invisible Children* Michael Horbach Stiftung Gallery*A Selection of Photographs*, Landskrona Photo Festival, Sweden

2016

Girls, Women and Coming of Age, EastWing Gallery, Dubai, UAE: Becoming

2014

Ordinary Lives, Arab-American National Museum, Dearborn, MI*Deserted Spaces and Ordinary Lives*, Fotofest 2014, Houston, TX*Ordinary Lives : Women of the Middle East*, Alliance Française, Singapore

2013

A Girl and Her Room, Galerie Lichtblick, Cologne, Germany*Ordinary Lives: Women of the Middle East*, Sana Gallery, Singapore

2012

A Girl and Her Room, SouthEast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, FL
A Girl and Her Room, Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, OR
Girls In Between: Portraits of Identity, Photographic Resource Center, Boston, MA
A Girl and Her Room, Leica Headquarters Gallery, Solms, Germany
A Girl and Her Room, Foster Gallery, Noble and Greenough School, Dedham, MA

2011

A Girl and Her Room, Mosaic Rooms at the A.M Qattan Foundation, London, UK

2010 AND EARLIER

A Girl and Her Room, Gallery of Photography B&B, Bielsko-Biala, Poland
Ordinary Lives, Foster Prize, The Institute of Contemporary Art, ICA Boston, MA
Ordinary Lives, MANEGE, St. Petersburg, Russia
Aftermath of War, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
Forgotten People and Aftermath of War, Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, OR

GROUP SHOW

2026/25

Institute of Contemporary Arts/Boston: Portraits from the ICA Collection
 MFA/Boston: Tender Loving Care: Contemporary Art from the Collection

2024/23

Louder Than Hearts: Women Photographers from the Arab World, Middle East Institute, Washington, DC
In Focus: Artists at Work, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
Women Defining Women in Contemporary Art of the Middle East, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Oskar Barnack Award Finalists Exhibition, Ernst Leitz Museum, Wetzlar, Germany

2022

Leica Women Foto Project Winners – The Bind of Humanity, Fotografiska, New York, NY
US | THEM | WE Race X Ethnicity X Identity, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA
Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC
Portrait of a Lady, Villa Empain, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
 Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2021

I'm Yours, Encounters with Art in Our Times, Institute Contemporary Art / Boston, MA
Breaking the Frame: Women Artists from the Collection, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL

2020

Just Kids, Minneapolis Institute of Art
Contemporary Muslim Fashions, Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian National Design Museum, New York
Escape Routes, Bangkok Art Biennale 2020, Bangkok, Thailand
Mara'ina (Invisible Children), Ithra, King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Re/New: Recent Acquisitions by Contemporary Artists, Eskenazi Museum of Art, Bloomington, IN

2019

Live Dangerously, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
Contemporary Muslim Fashions, Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
She Who Tells a Story (exhibition catalogue), Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, NC

2018

Contemporary Muslim Fashions, de Young Museum, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco
Aftermath: The Fallout of War—America and The Middle East, Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL
She Who Tells a Story, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Ontario

2017

Biennale des Photographes du Monde Arabe Contemporain, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris
Aftermath: The Fallout of War—America and The Middle East, Gund Gallery/Kenyon College, Gambier, OH

2016

She Who Tells a Story, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC
Aftermath: Fallout of War – America and The Middle East, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL
Portraits Look Back and Forth, Tufts University Art Gallery: Mortal Things
Menschenskinder. Children's Worlds Between Desire and Reality, ARP Museum, Germany

2015

Exposure: Gordon Parks and Rania Matar, Richard Levy Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize (exhibition catalogue), National Portrait Gallery, London
She Who Tells a Story, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
She Who Tells a Story, Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

2014

The Middle East Revealed: A Female Perspective, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY
Bridge to Palestine (exhibition catalogue), Beirut Exhibition Center, Lebanon
The Other and Me (exhibition catalogue), Sharjah Art Museum, UAE
Contemporary Women Photographers, Tsereteli Museum of Modern Art, Tbilisi, Georgia

2013

She Who Tells a Story: Women Photographers from Iran and The Arab World (exhibition catalogue), Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Hey Alter...!, Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg, Germany

2012

Women Photographers from the Middle East, Empty Quarter Gallery, Dubai
Fotokina: A Girl and Her Room, curated by Angela Rupprecht, UNICEF Photo of the Year Award
Fotografia 2012, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Italy

2011

Rebirth (exhibition catalogue), Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon
Portraits of Teenagers, Houston Center for Photography, Houston, TX
ICA 75th Anniversary Exhibition: 75 Artists for 75 Years, Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

2010 AND EARLIER

Beirut Exhibition Center: International Art of the Lebanese Diaspora, winners exhibition
Select Contemporary Photography, Spagnuolo Gallery, Georgetown University, Washington, DC
The Pursuit of Happiness, Noorderlicht Photofestival, Netherlands
Contrapuntal Lines: A Tribute to Edward Said, Koppelman Gallery, Tufts University, Medford, MA
The Veil: Modesty, Fashion, Devotion or Statement, Council for Foreign Relations, New York, NY
Photographs of Children from the Collection, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA
MCC Grant Recipients Exhibition, Trustman Art Gallery, Simmons College, Boston, MA
New England Photographer's Biennial, Purchase Prize, Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA
Moving Walls International, Open Society Institute, Espace SD, Beirut, Lebanon

AWARDS /
RESIDENCY

2026

Takreem America Cultural Excellence Award, honoring Arab Americans

2024

Video Commission by National Museum of Women in the Arts: In Focus: *Artists At Work*

2023

Commission by LACMA (Los Angeles Museum of Art) for the permanent collection
Finalist Oskar Barnack Award

2022

Winner Leica Women Foto Award
 Finalist Arnold Newman Prize for New Directions in Photographic Portraiture
 Finalist Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC
 Mosesian Award for Excellence in the Arts,

2021

Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship,

2019

CENTER Award 1st Place Recipient
 Nomination Infinity Award, International Center for Photography

2018

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship,

2017

Mellon Foundation Artist-in-Residence Grant, The Gund Gallery at Kenyon College, Spring

2011

Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship

2007

Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship

COLLECTIONS

Allen & Overy, The Netherlands
 American University of Beirut Museum, Beirut, Lebanon
 Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, TX
 Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
 Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
 Dalloul Art Foundation Museum (DAF), Beirut, Lebanon
 Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA
 Davis Museum at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
 DeCordova Museum & Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
 Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, Lansing, MI
 Eskenazi Museum of Art, Bloomington, IN
 Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA
 Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, MA
 Gund Gallery at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
 Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL
 Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH
 Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL
 Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston, Boston, MA
 Lehmbrock Museum, Duisburg Germany
 Library of Congress, Washington, DC
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA
 Microsoft Art Collection
 Middlebury Museum of Art, Middlebury, VT
 Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
 MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA
 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
 Museum of Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (collection of Joaquim Paiva)
 National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
 Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
 Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI
 Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
 Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park FL
 Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL
 Saradar Collection, Beirut, Lebanon
 Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, FL
 Tufts University Permanent Art Collection, Medford, MA
 Worcester Museum of Art, Worcester, MA

PUBLICATIONS

2026
Where Do I Go? KAPH Books and Eskenazi Museum of Art,

 2021
SHE, Radius Books,

 2016
L'Enfant-Femme, Damiani

 2012
A Girl and Her Room, Umbrage Editions

 2009
Ordinary Lives, Quantuck Lane Press/Norton