



35 + 35 ...

A retrospective of a lifetime

By Bassam Lahoud

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BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE

BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE

BETWEEN YOU AND ME

I HAVE CHOSEN FORGIVENESS

I HAVE CHOSEN YOU

I HAVE CHOSEN LEBANON

BASSAM LAHOUD

Elie Haddad
Dean, School of Architecture & Design
Lebanese American University

This collection of photographs is only a small sample of thirty-five years of a photographic quest. During these years, Bassam Lahoud tirelessly travelled the world, looking for images of various lives, different places and exotic finds. His vision was always tempted by the particular, and his curiosity led him to get immersed in these various cultures, from India to Ukraine, and from Latin American to Lebanon.

As he now turns the page on a long career teaching photography at the Lebanese American University, his journey will not end here, but will surely lead him to other places. His search for images is bound to take new turns, and his archives will reveal, as these photographs do, a rich history of places that have changed forever.

With time, everything is bound to change. Photographs are the testimony of that. They are the silent witnesses to bygone moments, places, and people. And photographers are those patient souls with a keen interest in preserving those moments for us, for eternity.

35 + 35 ... A retrospective of a Lifetime

Bassam Lahoud
Lebanese American University

Going back in time, during the summer of 1987, I met Ruth & Maurice Maalouf, both faculty members at BUC then. They told me that BUC is moving from Louaize to a new location in Amchit, my hometown and they are hiring new faculty in different fields, especially Photography. I was living in Montreal and I was on holidays, but I said to myself why not meet with the dean at that time, Dr Nabeel Haidar, to discuss this opportunity. During the meeting in his office at La Citadelle complex in Byblos, he asked me what would be the courses I could teach, and suddenly I found myself teaching different courses in Photography, Design V, Basket Ball & Swimming. To tell you the truth, I did not have in mind to stay in Lebanon and even more, going into teaching.

The day I began teaching in October 1987, my life changed radically, and I fell in love with teaching at this institution, BUC, that became LAU, my second family for 35 years. During 35 years, I evolved through my researches, my encounters with my students, my international relations and professional photography trips.

For all my friends, family and people, they always said that LAU became home for me. And it will always stay my home.

I had the chance to see this institution evolve and move forward from BUC to LAU, to become one the most prestigious institutions in the MENA region. I was proud to be a part of it.

I am leaving this important institution with a broken heart, but also with a heritage of beautiful memories.

People...



BUC Students between Classes, Amchit Lebanon 1987



BUC 1st Graduates, Amchit Lebanon 1988



Thai Tribe, Langkawi Malaysia 1998



Mother and Children, Antananarivo Madagascar 1997



Dolce Vita, Roma Italy 1983



Nude, Montreal Canada 1980



Facing his Sculpture, Valencia Spain 2002



The Malgasy Smile, Antananarivo Madagascar 1997



Bullfighting in the Corrida, Valencia Spain 2004



Santa Claus, Cairo Egypt 1997



Double Deck Bus, Hong Kong 1985



Traditional Village, Indonesia 2011



Ready for the After Life, Kolkata india 2017



Indigenous Tribe, Paraguay 2009



United Colors, Aswan Egypt 1997



Photography Workshop, United Arab Emirates University UAEU Abu Dhabi 2013



The Bread of Life, Georgia 1997



Martyrs Square, Beirut Lebanon 1993



Photo Exhibition of Christian Catafago, Prison of Khiam South Lebanon 2000



The Remains of the Day I, Houla South Lebanon 2006



The Remains of the Day II, Houla South Lebanon 2006



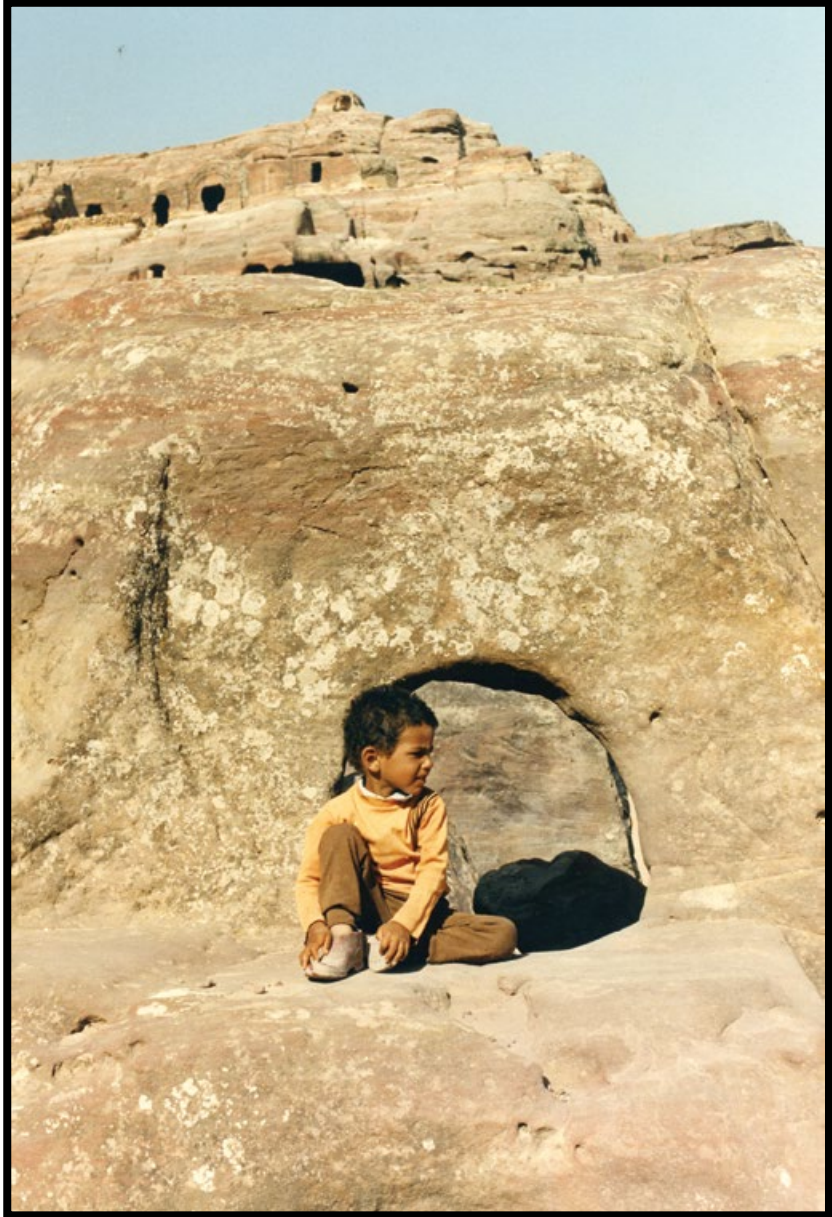
A Traditional Family Dinner, Maryland USA 2011



Myanmar Girl in a Rohingya Camp, Cox Bazar Bangladesh 2018



Myanmar Family in a Rohingya Camp, Cox Bazar Bangladesh 2018



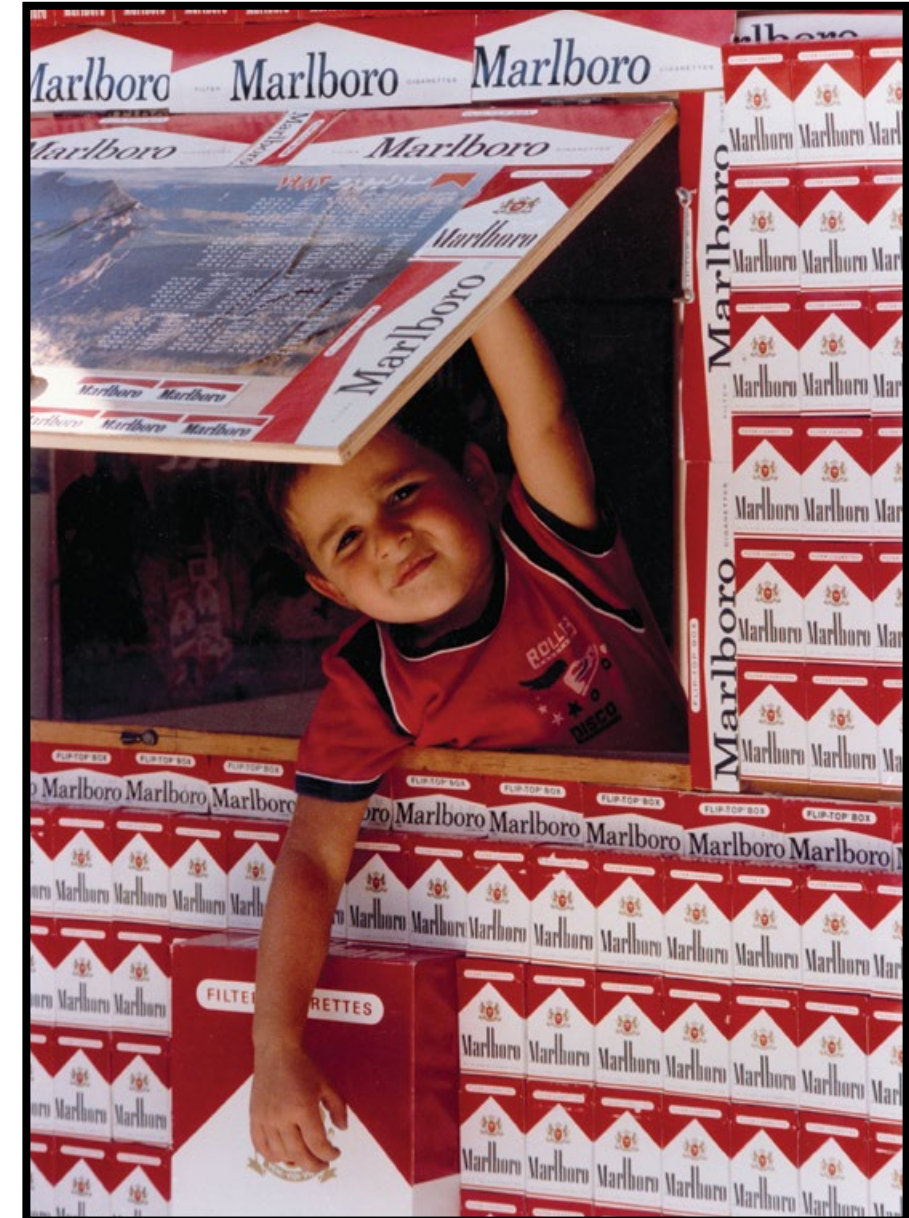
Under the Sun, Petra Jordan 1986



Syrian Mother & Child, Kontari Beirut Lebanon 2017



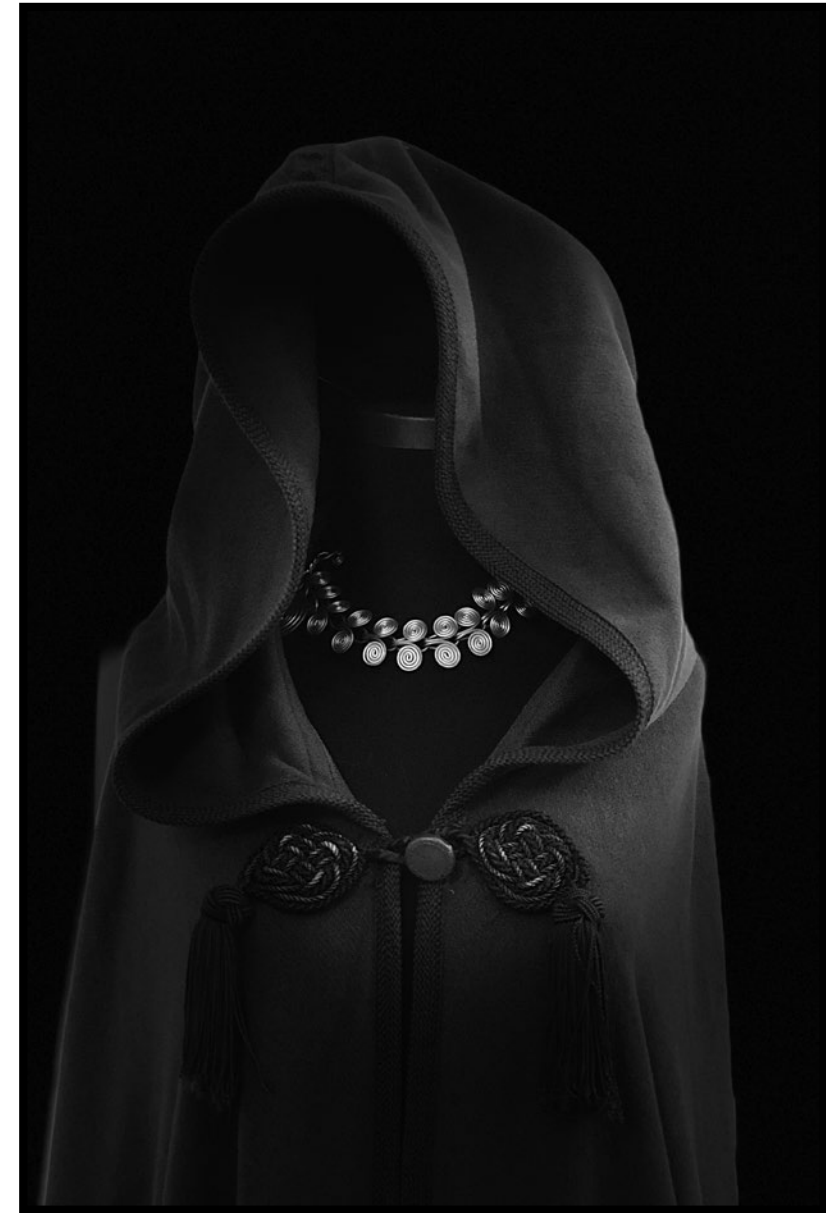
Tompe L'Oeil, Byblos Lebanon 2009



Malboro Country, Amchit Lebanon 1996



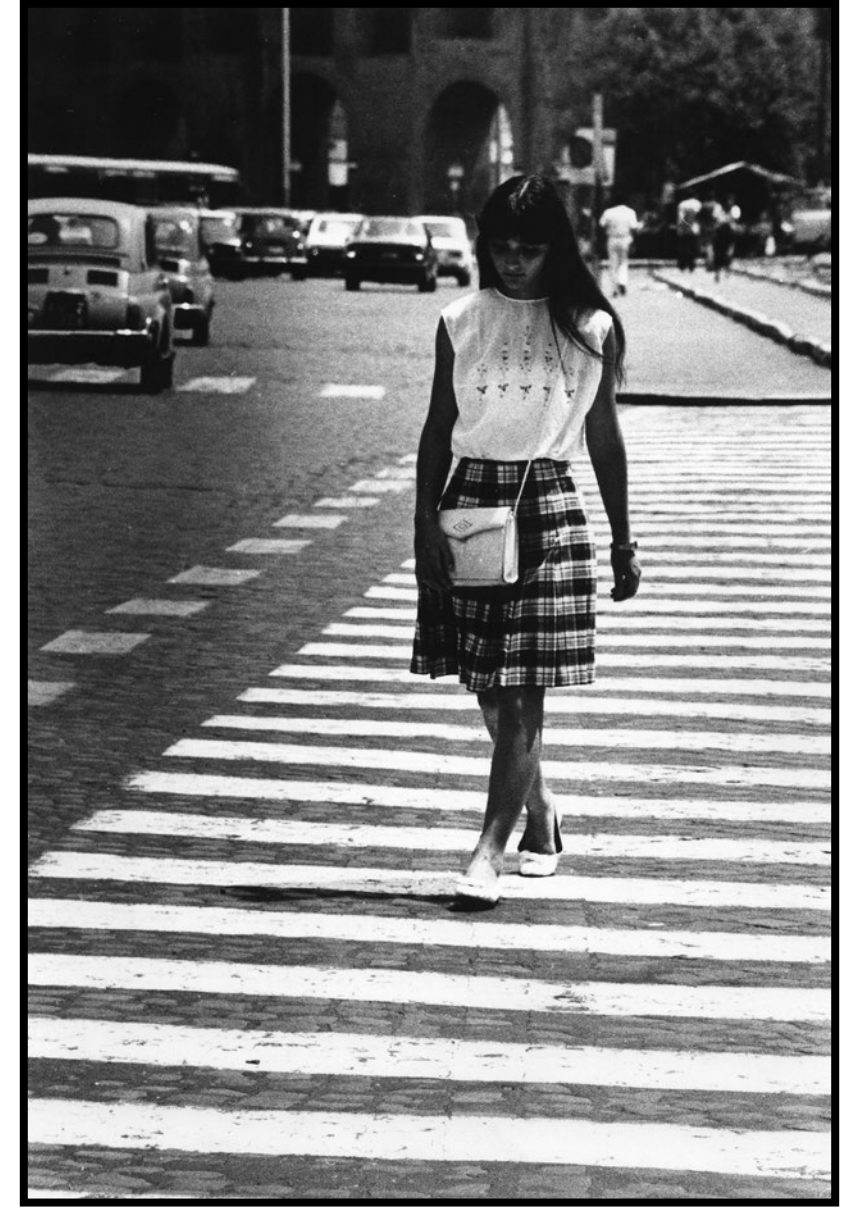
Fashion Photography in the Roman Amphitheater, Bosra Syria 2005



Inside the Fashion Museum, Vinius Lithuania 2017



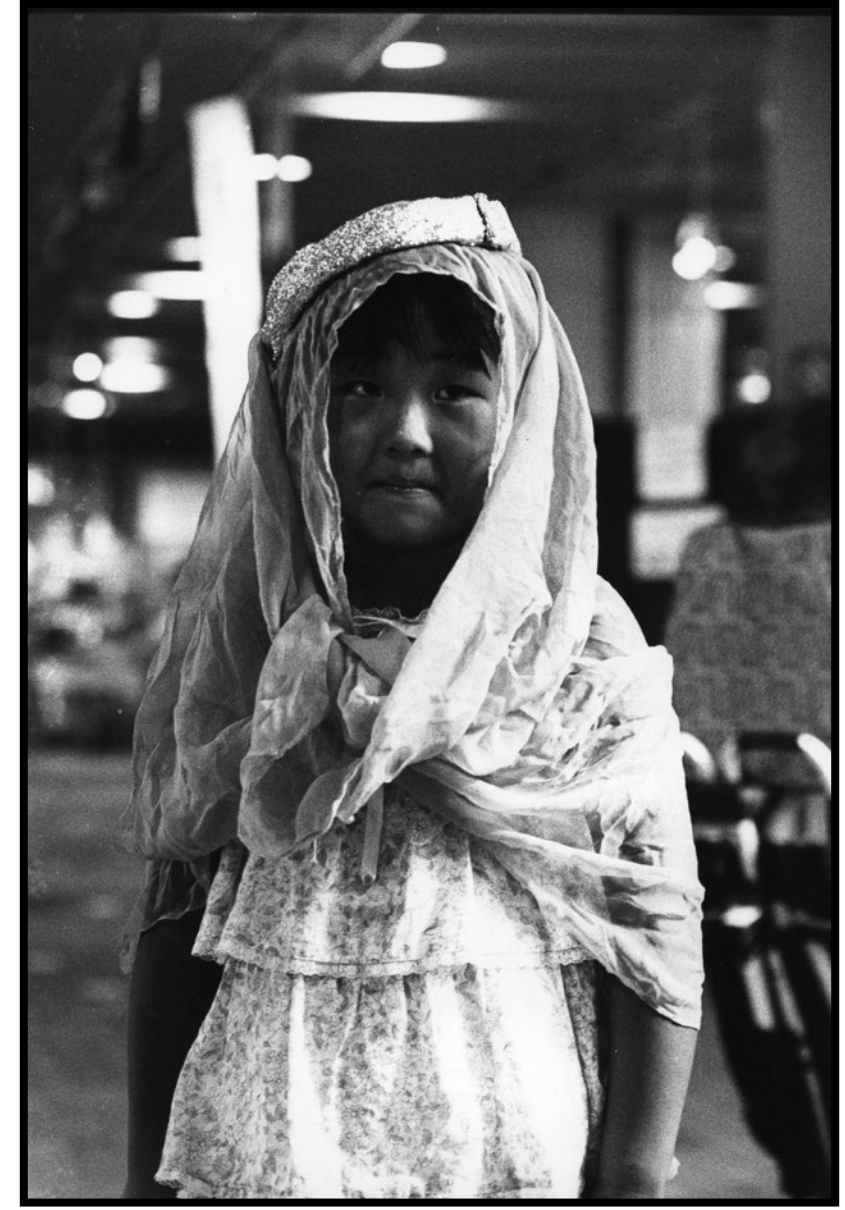
Las Fallas, Valencia Spain 2000



Stripes, Bergamo Italy 1983



Tyrolien Girl in a Train, Bressanone Italy 1975



Japanese Girl with the Oriental Hijab, Kobe Japan 1985



The Shoeshine Girl, Montreal Canada 1977

Scenery...



Trapeze Act, Donetsk Ukraine 1988



After a Shooting Session, Byblos Lebanon 2002



Topless Beach, Nabeul Tunisia 1986



Nude under the Cedars, Jaj Lebanon 1996



Hidden in the Clouds, Hasroun Lebanon 2011



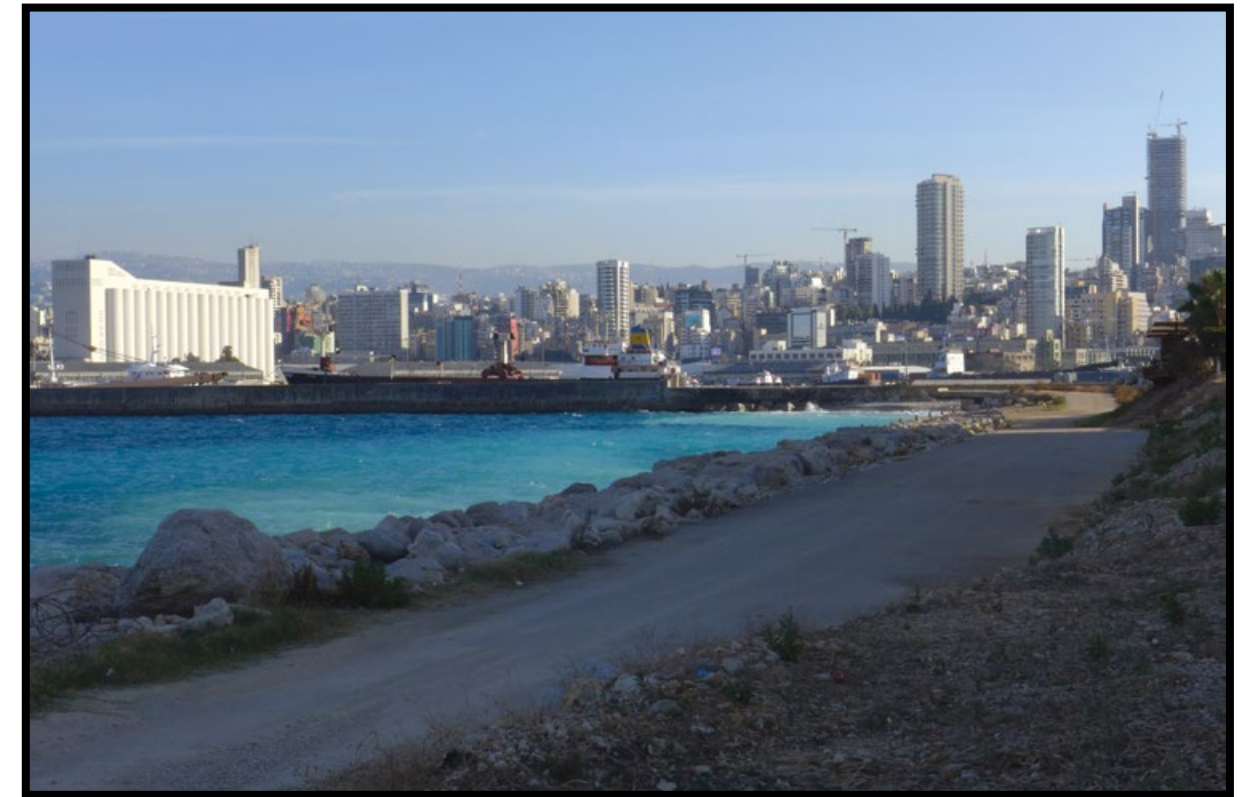
The Remains of the Day III, South of Beirut Lebanon 2006



The Remains of the Day IV, South of Beirut Lebanon 2006



Fishing in the Normandy Bay, Beirut Lebanon 1993



Before the Catastrophe, Beirut Lebanon 2018



Black and White at the Old Port I, Byblos Lebanon 1999



Black and White at the Old Port II, Byblos Lebanon 1999



Children in front of the Port of Cox Bazar, Bangladesh 2018



Inside the Rohingya Camp, Cox Bazar Bangladesh 2018



Fishermen, Cox Bazar Bangladesh 2018



Tanah Lot Temple, Bali Indonesia 2011



Hill of Crosses, Kryziu Kalnas Lithuania 2019



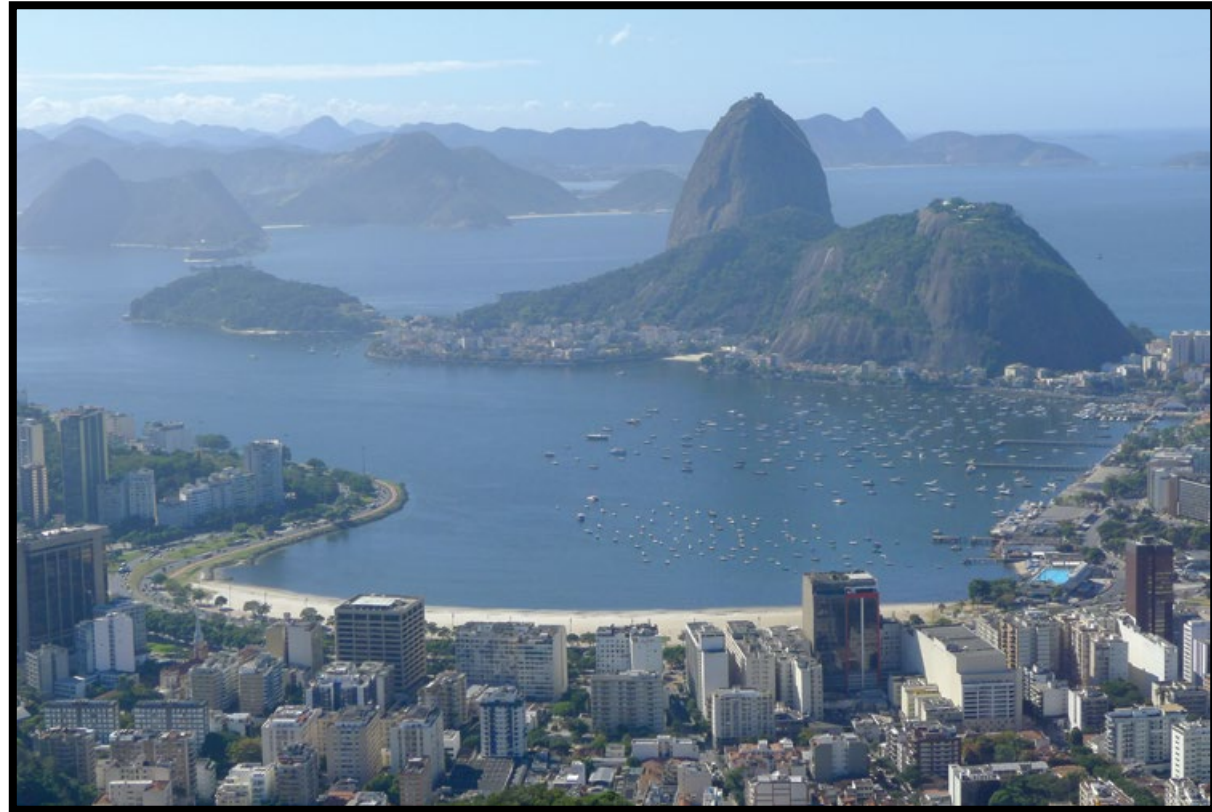
Tara Mosque, Dhaka Bangladesh 2018



Songkran Celebration, Chiang Mai Thailand 2014



Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawala Sri Lanka 2012



Pao de Acucar, Rio de Janeiro Brazil 2012



Frozen Lake, Aspen Colorado USA 2011



Blowing the Clouds, Vatican City 2005



La Grand Place, Brussels Belgium 2014



Rainbow, Minsk region Belarus 2019



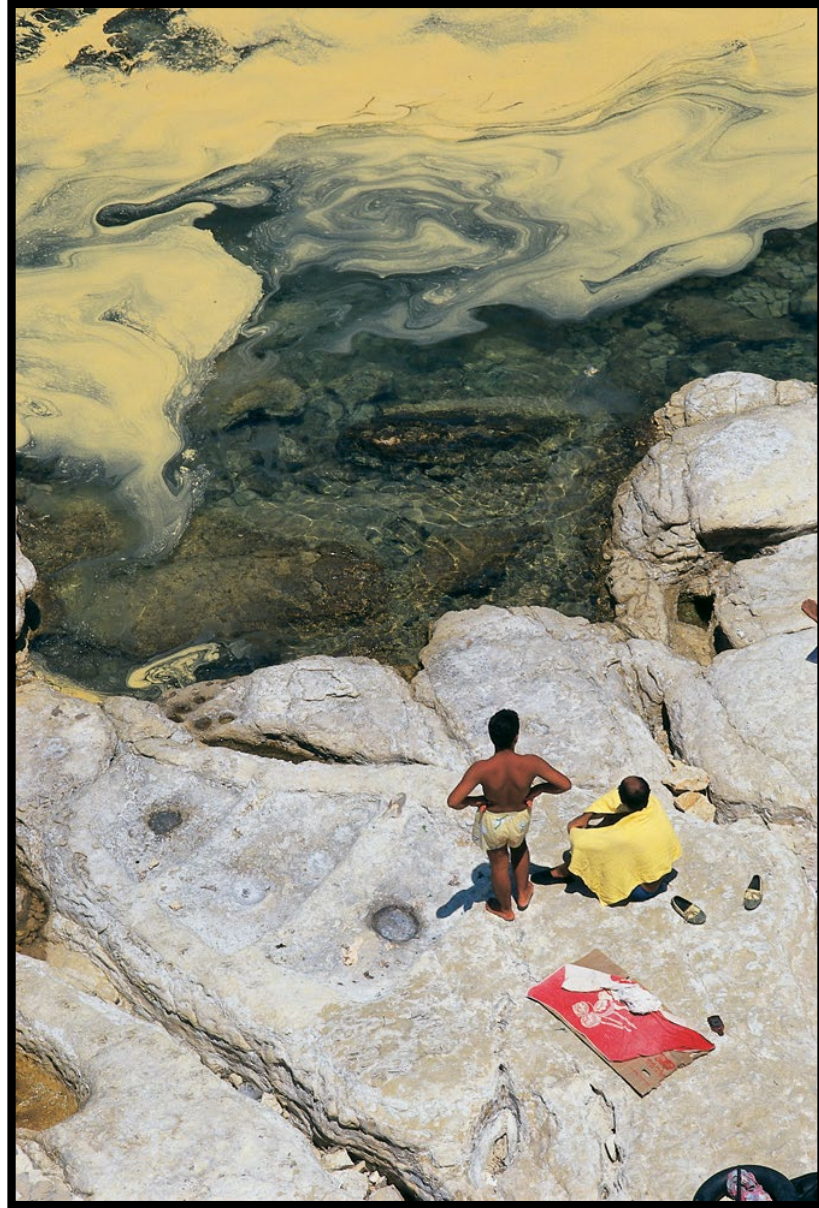
Sunset, Amchit Lebanon 2018



Roueis Grotto, Akoura Lebanon 2011



Oil Pollution, Port of Amchit Lebanon 1989



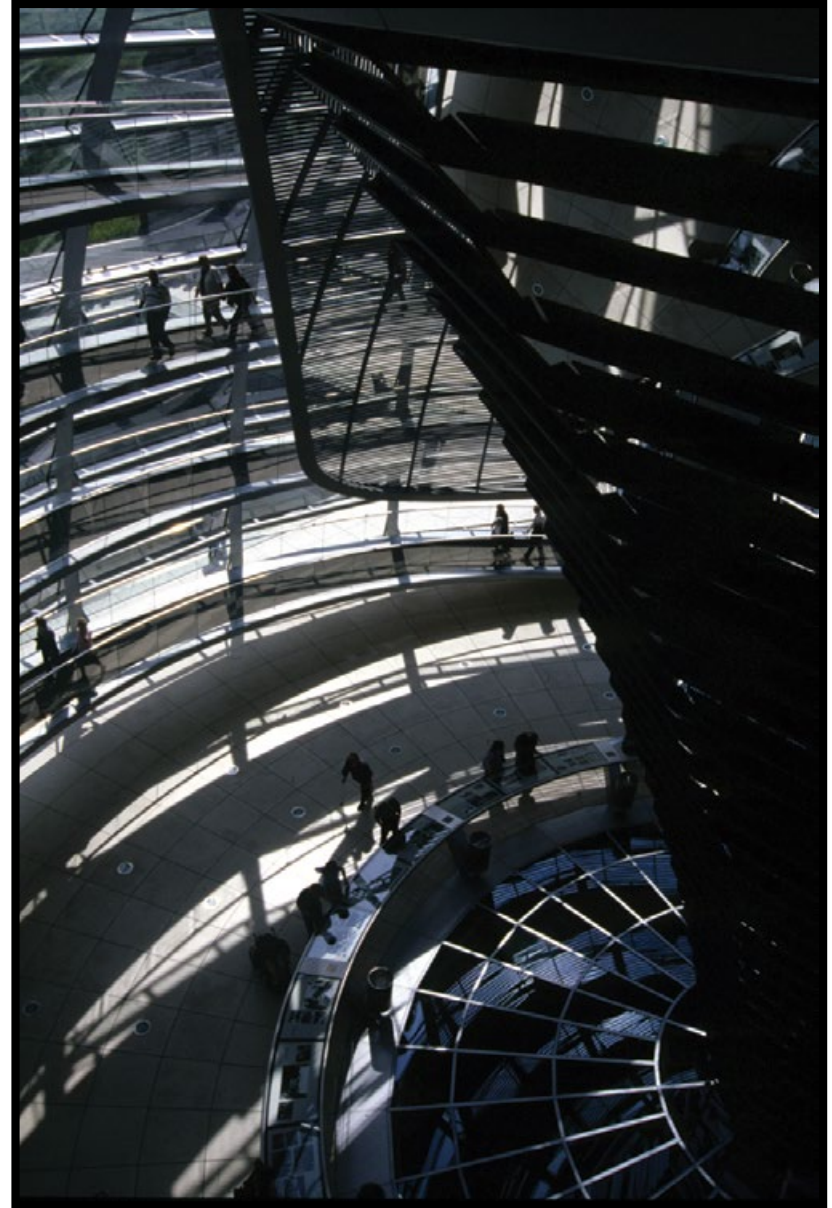
Pollution, Port of Amchit Lebanon 1989



The Ancient Olive Trees, Bcheele Lebanon 1994



Floating Market, Bangkok Thailand 1985



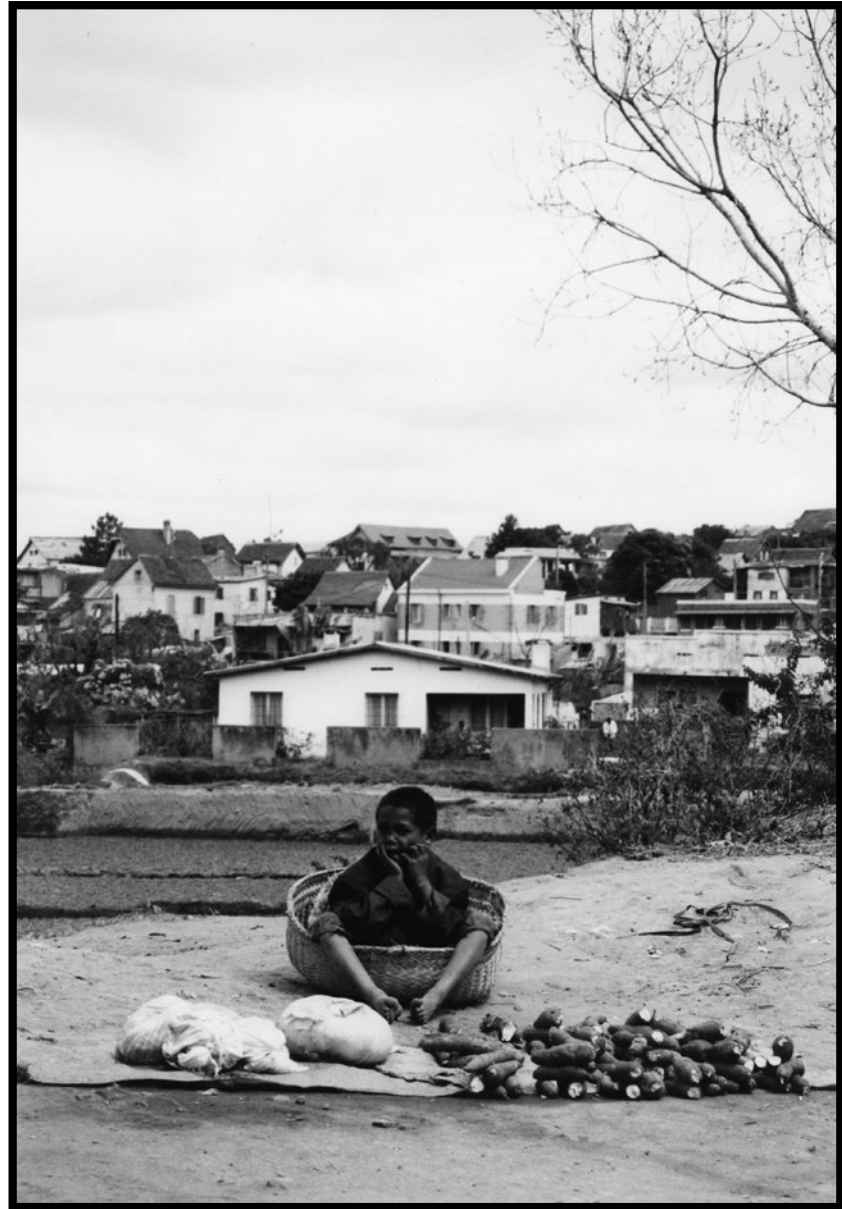
Reichstag Dome, Berlin 1998



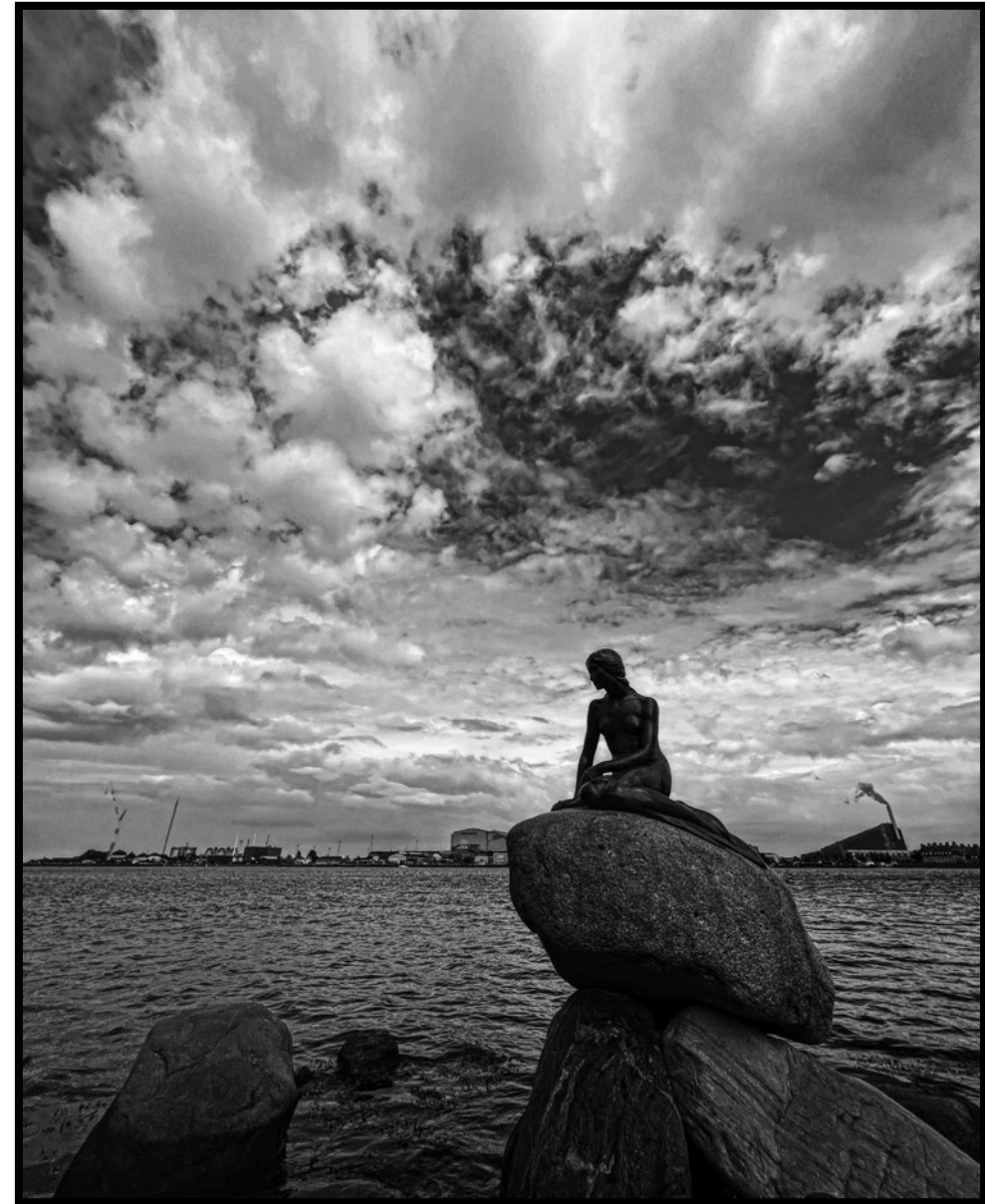
Serenity, Jeju Island South Korea 2013



Crocodile Farm, Samutprakan Thailand 1985



Waiting in his Basket, Antananarivo Madagascar 1997



The Mermaid, Copenhagen Denmark 2022



Photo by Michel Daou

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Bassam Lahoud received his Diploma in Civil Engineering (option Architecture) from the “Ecole Supérieure d’Ingenieurs de Beyrouth” (ESIB), and later received a Master in Fashion Photography from the “Scuola di Fotografia di Moda Click Up” in Florence, Italy. From 1983 until 1996, he taught Architecture & Photography at USEK, LAU, USJ, ALBA & NDU, & has been teaching Photography at the Lebanese American University since 1987.

Bassam Lahoud is a member of the Order of Engineers & Architects of Beirut, the Press Photographers Syndicate & the Union Catholique Internationale de Presse of Lebanon. He is the Chairman of “ESCWA Arts Council”, founding member of Prestige Magazine and founder of “the Lebanese House of Photography”. He was a member of many national & international juries of Photography & Architecture between 1982 & 2017.

Lahoud received the Spanish “Order of the Civil Merit, grade Commander” from King Juan Carlos of Spain & the Spanish Government and the Medal of Achievement from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria. He represented Lebanon in many artistic & cultural events (Italy, Spain, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Japan, Great Britain, Madagascar, China, Canada, & USA), and was one of two non-European lecturers to participate at the European Forum “Regard & Vision” held in Lille, France as part of the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2004.

Lahoud held more than 50 exhibitions of his work in Lebanon, Tunisia, USA (Houston & New York), France (Paris & Lille), Czech Republic, Syria, Jordan, Germany (Frankfurt, Berlin & Erfurt), Italy, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Qatar, UAE (Dubai & Abu Dhabi). He is also co-author of 3 major publications: The Maronite Patriarchate, The Greeks & Phoenicians in Antiquity, and Brazil’s Official Residences Abroad, as well as the editor of Amchit 1860-1960.

Lahoud visited Kolkata in India in the summer of 2017, on a Fellowship sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). He published a booklet of his photographic journey in this fascinating city sponsored by the School of Architecture & Design of LAU.

He also published 2 booklets in 2019 of his photographic trips to Bangladesh and to Donbas Ukraine.

*“THE WORLD WE SEE IS
CREATED BY WHAT
YOU FOCUS ON.
IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO
ADJUST YOUR LENS.”*

BASSAM LAHOUD

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