



BIOGRAPHY

Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
Montréal 

Babak Salari

Babak Salari is a documentary photographer and cultural activist. Originally from Iran, he has been living in exile in Canada for the past 22 years. He has created several bodies of work exploring the double consciousness of otherness, marginality and diasporic identity. His work is sensitive and probing. Because of his own experience as an outsider, he strongly identifies with his subjects. Their trust and acceptance allows him access to parts of their lives normally hidden to outsiders.

His work ranges from social tableaux to portraits of individuals and has taken him to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, Iraq, Kurdistan, Palestine, Israel, Mexico and Cuba. He has worked with Médecins du Monde using photography as a tool to bear witness to the aftermath of the war in Afghanistan and the occupation of Iraq and its daily effects in people's lives particularly the environment, children and women.

Babak's many diverse photo documentary projects include: portraits of Iranian exiles living in Canada, a series on the power of women and gay men in a matriarchal community in Mexico and a project on the lived experience of women wearing the hijab (Islamic practice of veiling).

His photo documentary of the public practice of queer eroticism in Cuba was described by Tom Waugh, curator, critic and Chairman of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema at Concordia University as an "unprecedented glimpse of a marginal sexual community in a society about which we probably have many misconceptions-in all its dignity, tenderness, humour, style and diversity as well as the more mundane texture of its everyday life."

Educated at Concordia University and Dawson Institute of Photography, Babak has been acclaimed for his high degree of technical and artistic accomplishment. He has worked as an instructor of black and white and documentary photography at Dawson College and his work has been published in magazines and journals, privately collected and exhibited in Canada, USA, Europe and Mexico.



www.babaksalari.com



Photo : Babak Salari



CHILDREN OF DIASPORA

Babak Salari

Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
Montréal 

Children of Diaspora begins where my previous project *People in Between* ended. *People In Between* conveyed the paradoxical experience of first generation Iranian intellectuals and political activists in Canada. *Children of Diaspora* documented the “post-exile” experience of second generation Iranian Canadians.

Working with second generation Iranians was an important and satisfying experience for me. I realized how much they wanted to learn about and connect to their culture and to be counted and represented as part of the Iranian Diaspora.

Comparing and contrasting the two bodies of work, *Children of Diaspora* and *People in Between*, I found that the first generation Iranians I photographed generally did not look into the camera. They appeared to be here physically but their eyes and faces reflected a sadness and pre-occupation with their removed homeland. The second generation, in contrast, were very much present and looked towards the camera. Their experience was different than their parents. Some were born in Canada and some came from Iran as children when their parents migrated here as the result of the 1979 revolution against the pro-west monarchy which was replaced by an Islamic fundamentalist government.



They were still affected on a daily basis by the International politics because they were raised in Iranian households but they have had to adapt to a new society and were affected by the culture around them. They were not looking out from far away, they were very much here. This was the main difference between the two bodies of work. This new experience between the children of Diaspora and myself resulted in their desire to express their own feelings through writing.



Photo : Babak Salari



BIOGRAPHY

Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
Montréal 

May Truong

May Truong was born on a sinking ship in the middle of the South China Sea. The captain of the ship wanted to throw her overboard because of an ancient superstition. If it were not for her kung-fu fighting father, she would not be here today.

She has spent her whole life seeing the world in a unique way, and it was not until 18, when she picked up her first camera, that she realized what a unique gift she had. She pursued photography with a fervor and moved to Montreal to pursue her passions. She is now based in Montreal and lives out her life as a commercial and fine art photographer.

She has exposed her work across Canada and Europe. Her work has been touring along side work by **Annie Leibovitz, Tierney Geron and Peggy Sirota** in the Beauty Beyond Compare exhibit brought to you by Dove.



Photo : Mat Truong



WAITING FOR SUNDAY

Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
Montréal 

May Truong

This photo project is about the **loneliness of ageing**. As my grandmother has aged, her dependency on others has grown. The roles have become reversed. Where once she was the leader of the household and the provider, she is now the one who is cared for, provided for.

She was a very independent person in her younger years, but now her health is failing. Her bones ache, her feet ache, her soul aches. She is still a proud and stubborn woman and she has not yet become accustomed to her lack of independence, or **her inability to be self-reliant**.

The fire that used to fuel her passions and her dreams has simmered and clouded over to reveal a haziness in her eyes. I used to visit her every Sunday, but now that I've moved away, I don't see her as often. She used to wait for me every Sunday, but now she waits a little longer.



Photo : Mat Truong



BIOGRAPHY

Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
Montréal 

Will Lew

A line from one of Will's favorite songs is also how he lives by, in trying to enjoy everything the world hands him. **Will Lew** is a product of Chinese immigrants and the North's most vibrant city - Montreal. Will graduated from the Dawson Institute of Photography in 2002 where he was known for his constant experimentation and was awarded the school's first ever prize for digital artistry. Upon graduation Will immediately gained the attention of the local photography community, winning a finalist nod in the **prestigious LUX-Graphica photography competition**. Just two years later he would be awarded a **Grand Prize**. Will is admired amongst his clients for his creative perspective and respected for his super efficient technical skills. Using isolation and empty spaces, Will combines these themes with a warmth and playfulness that makes **his work contemporary and always original**.

Awards :

- Honorable Mention : PIEA 2002 Photography Contest : Computer Assisted
- 8th Place : Photo Life 2003 Photo Annual
- Finalist : 2002 LUX-Grafika Photography Competition
- Grand Prix : 2004 LUX-Grafika Competition
- Finalist : 2005 LUX-Grafika Competition
- Grand Prix : 2005 LUX-Grafika Competition



Photo : Will Lew



Photo : Will Lew



LONELY CHINA

Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
Montréal 

Will Lew

The **history of China is a sad one**. For hundreds of years China kept to themselves, shutting out the rest of world. They have suffered from wars and massacres from foreign powers and powers from within for most of the last century. During the late 19th and early 20th century the country was opened up and looted by many European countries. The Communist party took power and ravished the country during their reign. Only in the last few years has China awoken to become the potential world power it's harnessed for years.

My parents immigrated to Canada in 1975. They left a Cultural Revolution ruined country. China has been recovering since. I visited my parents' mother land in the summer of 2001, for a short duration, and discovered the hardships the majority of Chinese people endured. In 2005 I returned to the mainland to major cities like Beijing, Xian, Nanjing and Shanghai. I documented the lonely people of China. Even with a population of over a billion people it's easy to get lost and alone. This project was to discover a sense of **loneliness in the "Middle Kingdom"**.



Photo : Will Lew



Photo : Will Lew