

Artist statement

A rush of joy, sadness, anger, a heart filled with love, a physical body experiencing goosebumps. These are some of the triggers that animate Nada Elissa's work. Born and raised in the heart of Cairo, Elissa is thirsty for these genuine moments. Her emotional body is what makes her move. Elissa is constantly touched by those raw intimate instants often short-lived because of the nature of the modern human beings.. Real connection is scary. But when Elissa can see and feel this connection she can't help but desire to - as cliché as it sounds - capture it.

With her intensely compassionate approach, Elissa is able to get deep into people's lives and seize something that nourishes certain emotions in her and fuel her creative method. It all comes from a place of Love.

The best way Elissa describes her work is with a sentence she once read in an article about Taha Hussein and his wife Suzanne that immediately resonated in her "to see with your heart what your eyes refuse to see."

Photography is her medium of predilection; she has been building a strong connection with its language since she was introduced to it as a child by her father. The use of this medium holds a more prominent place in her life after she left the family house, at 18, to go live on her own in France. Faced to understand a new country, language and culture caused her to experience reactions she was not familiar with, photography became her way to mitigate these and she familiarized herself with this new environment. It became a sort of defense mechanism, a way to process her emotions. As if telling a bedtime story to a child, Elissa re-arranges her snapshots into series juggling between reality and fiction, conscious and subconscious, to keep the childish magic alive.

Nada Elissa is a member of Women Photograph

PUBLICATIONS & ARTICLES

The man went, the dog came by writer Basma Abdel Aziz on Weiter Schreiben 2022 - <https://weriterschreiben.jetzt/texte/mann-weg-hund-da/?version=original>

« Hakawi » : une Égypte belle et brutale, Fisheye Magazine 2019 - <https://www.fisheyemagazine.fr/decouvertes/actu/hakawi-une-egypte-belle-et-brutale/>

Tech Queens in the Arab World, Vogue International 2018 - <https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/women-in-tech-arab-world>

Silk Weavers in Egypt, AtharnaBrownbook, Dubai - <https://www.atharna.com/journal/silk-weaving-in-egypt>

Nuba, 14 pager editorial on Nuba, Brownbook Magazine, Dubai 2017

Mohamed Fayek, Brownbook Magazine, Dubai 2016

Asia Madani, Brownbook Magazine, Dubai 2016

Fishawy Caffee, Brownbook Magazine, Dubai 2015

Shahira Mehrez, Brownbook Magazine, Dubai 2015

Selected in Photoboite's 30UNDER30 Women Photographers 2015 - <http://photoboite.com/3030/2015/nada-elissa/>

Photo Project accepted in LensCulture - <https://www.lensculture.com/nada-elissa>

Photo accepted in PhotoVogue Italy - <http://www.vogue.it/en/photovogue/Portfolio/9c0d0d4d-0600-4ac6-99aa-188403af9ac5/Image>

The Battle for Power in Zamalek written by Mowafak Chourbagui – Article, Cairoscene <http://www.cairoscene.com/ViewArticle.aspx?AId=2516>

Play on with Rami: Adam Awad – Article, The Egypt Monocle

<http://egyptmonocle.com/EMonocle/play-on-with-rami-adam-awad/>

Eco Warrior(ess) – Article, Bitch Online Magazine - <http://bit.ch-online.co.uk/eco-beauty>

Making Chin Music With Veronika Vesper - Article, Bitch Online Magazine - <http://bit.ch-online.co.uk/making-chin-music-with-veronika-vesper>

Nada Elissa Egyptiennement Votre, in "People Are Strange" Magazine written by Paulina Araujo
<http://www.peoplearestrange.net/magazine/2013/07/29/nada-elissa-egyptiennement-votre/>
More Than Nada, Cairoscene written by Timmy Mowafy
<http://www.cairoscene.com/ViewArticle.aspx?AId=2825>

Nada Elissa blends documentary, conceptual photography in Egypt, in Stepfeed digital publishing platform
written by Nina Awad - <https://stepfeed.com/more-categories/culture/a-young-photographer-in-egypt-is-provoking-thought-and-challenging-stereotypes/>

EXHIBITIONS

Coeurfew

Hakawi - Récits D'une Égypte Contemporaine Group Exhibition, selected for MARE collective opening in Marseille
June 2022

Coeurfew

Hakawi - Récits D'une Égypte Contemporaine Group Exhibition, Cité Internationale Des Arts - Paris 2019
In the frame of the 3ème Biennale des Photographes contemporains du monde Arabe.

Singles

Talents Cachés Group Exhibition, Union des Français à l'Étranger - Cairo 2014