**LA GALERIE NATIONALE**

**CHRISTIAN GHAMMACHI: MZUNGU THE AIMLESS WANDERER**

Have you ever thought about travelling to a foreign land? How about alone on a motorcycle? The exhibition, titled **MZUNGU** - meaning ‘the aimless wanderer’ or ‘foreigner’ in Swahili - tells the inspirational story of the renowned photographer Christian Ghammachi’s travels. The Lebanese artist left a connection with Africa and decided to explore the vast continent on his own. He travelled on his motorcycle for six months through sixteen different countries, clocking almost 20,000 kilometers in mileage. As an artist, Ghammachi seeks to capture the more commonly overlooked details and to convey the hidden beauty and emotions that make up the reality of a moment. This series in particular depicts the strengths and vulnerabilities of the wildlife and the people who resiliently endure Africa’s harsh landscape. Separately, each photograph literally says a thousand words as each comes with a miraculous tale from Ghammachi’s adventures.

*Until mid July, La Galerie Nataionale, Dubai. +9714 380 4652. Galerie-nationale.com*

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**CARBON 12**

**TALAR AGHBASHIAN: SITE/SIGHT**

Figures dance amidst cranes and bulldozers. Poles, sheets of metal, and ladders adorn icy landscapes and barren deserts. Site/Sight is the Lebanese artist Talar Aghbashian’s first exhibition in the UAE. This series reflects a time between deconstruction and reconstruction. By using photographs as a point of reference Aghbashian paints construction sites that authentically come alive with peculiar movement. Aghbashian paints figures that are obscure and abstract and yet it is clear that these people are working together towards a common goal. In this series scientific and architectural problems are constantly being solved with ingenuity, and yet the projects that the figures are working on are a complete mystery. In the Site/Sight paintings Aghbashian seems to be concentrating on the creative and communal process of creation in a present moment.

*Until 30 June. Carbon 12, Dubai. Tel: +9714 340 6016. Carbon12dubai.com*

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**EAST WING**

**GEORGE AWDE: FRAGILE STATES**

George Awde captures the lives of a group of Syrian and Syrian Kurdish boys living in Beirut in his photographic series Fragile States. Following some of them for a few years, the Lebanese-American photographer chronicles the day-to-day landscape of these boys’ lives as they grow into young men. The Fragile States photographs are intimate yet diverse in their scenes; many of the pictures taken are outside where the subjects are exposed to natural elements. Awde plays with color filtering and shades to convey moods and to draw attention to specific details. Some of the photographs tell a story of friendship and leisure, while others tell of struggle. Many of these boys are laborers, stricken with challenges in life. In one photo a young man is hidden in the shadows, gripping his shoulder in a reassuring manner while standing in a strong stance. His shirtless body is partially exposed, with tattoos and red scars in an obvious view. Fragile States speaks of vulnerability, masculinity and coming of age.

*Until 25 June. East Wing, Dubai. Tel: +97150 853 3879. East-wing.org*

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**THE THIRD LINE**

**ZINEB SEDIRA: SANDS OF TIME**

The French-Algerian artist Zineb Sedira presents her explorations of human mobility in the Sands of Time series. Interested in the sugar trade, Sedira documented the movement of sugar from collection to distribution and found that like sand, sugar leaves traces behind after it is moved. Sedira’s photographs offer commentary on the cultural and environmental impacts of trade. Sugar is culturally significant to certain countries but once it is packaged and shipped elsewhere it loses its meaning. Furthermore, in the process of refining and shipping the sugar, the environment is affected. Included in the exhibition is a piece that is made up of small bottles that contain sugar samples from around the world entitled Seafaring. This piece seems to speak of our ability to cross continents and prosper by working together. In reference to the exhibition’s title Sands of Time, not only has human mobility been happening for countless generations, but the artist also seems to ask us: how long can we continue to do so for?

*Until 30 May. The Third Line, Dubai. Tel: +9714 341 1367. Thethirdline.com*