Maher Attar

Biography

Maher Attar is a highly renowned photographer with 30 years of experience at international photo agencies including AFP, Sygma and Corbis in Paris. He set up his own agency in 2002. In 2006, he founded Art&Privilège, a publishing company specialising in photography, which has published a number of books, and became an Epson-certified "Digigraph".

A retrospective of his work, *A Twenty Year Journey* was held in Paris in 2003. On May 18, 2006 his native country of Lebanon honoured him with the exhibition *Born in Lebanon* on National Heritage Day. At the same time, to mark the International Year of Deserts and Desertification under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, an exhibition of his work was held at the Espace Pierre Cardin in Paris entitled, *Auprès de mon Arbre*, featuring nine large format photographs celebrating nature, water and life.

Maher's *Bonheur* project, inspired from the backstage of famous cabaret Le Lido de Paris, blossomed in the summer of 2006 in the form of a series of exhibitions and a book. Following that, he published *Once Upon a Time … Souk Waqif*, capturing the mystery and the spirit of the old market in Doha. Images from the book were exhibited on large format canvas boards in Doha during the 2006 Asian Games and, later, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. *Portraits … Lebanon* focused on personality portraits of leading figures from contemporary Lebanon's economic, literary and artistic sectors. Lastly, the book *DOHArama*, a portrait of a desert metropolis between past and present, using panoramic techniques and Lomography, was exhibited at the QMA Gallery in the Doha Cultural Village in 2011. A first presentation of his current Lomography work was presented at Anima art contemporary gallery at the Pearl in Doha in 2013, and was then selected by the MEP and the Arab World Institute to exhibit at the First Photography Biennale of the Contemporary Arab World from November 2015 to January 2016 in Paris.

Maher Attar has developped and run the image bank at the office of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser for ten years. In parallel, he commited to organise special projects including, in 2009, a programme designed to teach children from Asian countries the joys and techniques of photography. Since May 2013, he is devoted to the project *Challenges & Reality*, sponsored by Education Above All foundation, witnessing the day-to-day circumstances of the children in the hope their right for education. The work was launched at the United Nations headquarters in New York and exhibited at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

In the corporate world, Maher Attar works in the field of luxury products. He has worked with, amongst other, Cristalleries Saint-Louis, which belonged to the Hermès company, and for the Spanish architect, Santiago Calatrava.

His work is collected by institutions such as the Qatar Museums Authority, UNESCO and major industrial groups, as well as by private individuals throughout the world.

EXPERIENCE

since 2006	**Founder of the publishing house Art&Privilège editions**
2007 - 2015	**Director, Photo Library of the Office of Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar**
2012 - 2014	**Photography Consultant for Qatar Museums Authority**
2002 - 2007	**MGA Production, photo press agency : Manager and Photographer**
2000 - 2002	**Press and communications advisor to Princess Haya of Jordan**
1986 - 2002	**Staff photographer at the Sygma photo press agency** from 1990 to 2002 : Paris bureau, realisation and publication of magazine reportages on countries, celebrities and art for Géo, Paris Match, Le Figaro Magazine, Life, Time, Newsweek, Stern, Focus, Business Week, etc. **Producer and director of a network of photographers in the Middle East** from 1986 to 1990 : war correspondent in the Middle East, based in Beirut, and then in Amman (Jordan) to cover the Gulf War
1985 - 1986	**Staff photographer at the Agence France-Presse (AFP)** Beirut (Lebanon) bureau, Middle East correspondent covering, notably, the Achille Lauro (in Egypt), war in the Palestinian camps, and the TWA highjacking
1982 - 1985	**Freelance photographer for the AP and ANSA press agencies**

Maher Attar

EXHIBITIONS

2016 ***Challenges & Reality***, Katara Cultural Village, Doha
2015 ***LeTemps Suspendu***, Photo12 Gallery, 1st Biennial of photographers in the Arab world at IMA, Paris
2015 ***Challenges & Reality***, UNESCO, Paris
2015 ***Challenges & Reality***, United Nations Headquarters, New York
2013 ***Challenges & Reality***, WISE sommit, QNCC, Doha
2013 ***A Still On a Land in Motion***, Anima Gallery, The Pearl, Doha
2011 **DOHA*rama***, Portrait of a city, QMA Gallery Katara, Doha
2010 ***Haute Couture Photography***, ZAÏ, Doha
2009 ***23 Visions***, A Collective Exhibition, Dome City Center, Beirut
2007 ***Once upon a time… Souk Waqif***, UNESCO, Paris
2006 ***Once upon a time… Souk Waqif***, Doha
2006 ***Bonheur… by Maher Attar***, Mois de la photo, Paris
2006 ***One year of happiness***, Printemps de la mode, Paris
2006 ***Beside my Tree***, Espace Cardin, Paris
2005 ***24 Hours. Lithuania***, European Tour
2004 ***Looking over Jordan***, Printemps Haussmann, Paris
2004 ***24 Hours. Lithuania***, Vilnius
2003 ***A Twenty Year Journey***, Festival du Scoop, Angers
2003 ***A Twenty Year Journey***, Paris

BOOKS

2015 ***Challenges & Reality***, for Education Above All foundation, Editions Art & Privilège
2010 **DOHA*rama***,, Doha city between present and past, Editions Art & Privilège
2009 ***On The Road To School***, for NGO ROTA, Editions Art & Privilège
2008 ***Portraits…Lebanon***, Editions Art & Privilège
2007 ***Where We Were***, Private collection
2006 ***Bonheur***, a cabaret dancer, Editions Art & Privilège
2006 ***Once upon a time… Souk Waqif***, the old souk of Doha city, Editions Art & Privilège
2003 ***A Twenty Year Journey***, retrospective, Edition MGA Production
2001 ***Morio Matsui***, a Japanese painter, Editions DCL
1989 ***The Palace of Beiteddin***, 18th century's palace in Lebanon, Private collection