

## RITA LEISTNER CV

(b. 1964, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada)

### EDUCATION

- 1999-2000 International Center of Photography, New York  
1988-1990 M.A. (Comparative Literature in French and English) University of Toronto  
1983-1988 B.A. University of Toronto

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Rita Leistner (Retrospective)*, University of Mexico (UNAM) Puebla (October 2018)  
2017 *The Tree Planters*, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto (October 21 – November 18)  
2016 *Buscando a Marshall McLuhan en Afganistán: del teléfono inteligente al paladio*, Centro de Fotografía de Montevideo, Parque Rodó, Uruguay  
*Levant Trilogy: Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, 2006 - 2015*, Fotofestival Łótz, Poland  
2015 *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan: From Smartphone to Palladium*, Photoville Photography Festival 2015, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
*Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan: From Smartphone to Palladium*, The Dylan Ellis Gallery, CONTACT Photography Festival Feature Exhibition, Toronto, Canada  
*Miklat*, The Galleries of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel  
2014 *Portraits-paysages de guerre: Liban*, Festival Allers-Retours, Musée Albert Kahn, Paris, France  
*Le Projet Edward Curtis*, Le Musée du Nouveau Monde, La Rochelle, France  
*À la recherche de Marshall McLuhan en Afghanistan*, Carré Amelot Ville de La Rochelle, France  
2013 *The Edward Curtis Project*, The National Arts Centre of Canada, Ottawa, Canada  
*The Edward Curtis Project*, Ecocentrix: Indigenous Arts, Sustainable Acts, presented by the European Research Council, The Bargehouse, London, England  
2010 *The Edward Curtis Project*, North Vancouver Museum, Canada  
2009 *The Last Lumberjacks*, Pierre Léon Gallery, Toronto  
2007 *Portraitscapes of War (1): Lebanon, 2006*, The Photo Passage at Harbourfront, Toronto, Canada  
2006 *The Women of al Rashad*, Gallery Gachet, World Mad Pride Headline Exhibition, Vancouver

### NEW MEDIA

- 2017 *From Janet with Love* (“Legacies 150” Interactive) The National Film Board of Canada, written by Helene Klodawsky and Jennifer Haydock, photography by Rita Leistner

### BOOKS

- 2014 Leistner, Rita, *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*. London: Intellect Books / The University of Chicago Press, 2014.  
2010 Clements, Marie and Rita Leistner, *The Edward Curtis Project: A Modern Picture Story*. Vancouver: Talon Books, 2010.  
2005 Abdul-Ahad, Ghaith, Kael Alford, Thorne Anderson and Rita Leistner, *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*. Vermont: Chelsea Green, 2005.

### FILMOGRAPHY

- The 21st Chromosome* (Documentary Short) (2014) Director of Photography.  
*Miklat* (Documentary Short) (2013) Director, Producer and Cinematographer.

## MAJOR DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY ESSAYS (text and photographs)

- 2018 Leistner, Rita, "Photography Goes to War," in Neumüller, Moritz, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Photography and Visual Culture*, London: Routledge, 2018.
- 2014 Leistner, Rita, "Embedded with Murders," in Stallabrass, Julian, ed. *Memories of Fire: Images of War and the War of Images*. London: Photoworks, 2013.
- Leistner, Rita, "Television Wars, Review of Michael Maclear's *Guerrilla Nation: My Wars In and Out of Vietnam*," in the *Literary Review of Canada*, Spring 2014.
- 2012 Leistner, Rita, "Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan," 12-part series, in the *Literary Review of Canada On-Line*, Winter 2012.
- 2007 Leistner, Rita and Timothy Dylan Wood, "Hanging the Past — Exploring the relationship between photography and state narratives at Cambodia's Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocidal Crime," in *Idea&s — The Arts and Science Review*, University of Toronto
- 2006 Leistner, Rita, "The Women of Al Rashad," in *The Walrus*, Winner of Gold Medal, Words and Pictures category, Canadian National Magazine Awards.
- 2005 Leistner, Rita, "The Burning Tip of the Spear: Embedded with Crazy Horse in Iraq," Cover Feature in *The Walrus*, February 2004. Nominated for 6 Canadian National Magazine Awards including Investigative Journalism, Personal Journalism, Photojournalism.

## ESSAYS IN EXHIBITION CATALOGS

- 2015 Leistner, Rita, "Miklat," in *Shelters*, The University of Beer Sheva, Israel, 2015.
- 2014 Leistner, Rita, "Portraits-paysages de guerre," in *Les âmes grises: récits photographiques d'après-guerre* (French). Festival allers-retours, Musée Albert Kahn, 2014.

## SELECTED REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS & PROFILES

### Print Media and Books

- 2017 "Restaging Indigenous-Settler Relations: Intercultural Theatre as redress rehearsal in Marie Clements' and Rita Leistner's *The Edward Curtis Project*," by Brenda Vellino, *Theatre Research in Canada*, 38.1.
- "Rita Leistner's *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*," *Kultura Wspolczesna* (Contemporary Culture) journal (Poland), by Kalina Kukiłko-Rogozińska
- 2015 "Rita Leistner's Quest for Marshall McLuhan," *ARTORONTO*
- 2014 "Rita Leistner and Smartphone Photography," *Chinese Photography*
- "Confessions of a Digital Naïve," *Media and Culture Reviews*, by Jill Don
- "A New War a New Medium," *Source: The Photographic Review*, by David Bate, London
- 2013 "Rita Leistner," Interview with and photographs by Rita Leistner in Kamber, Michael, ed. *The Untold Stories from Iraq: Photojournalists on War*. Austin: University of Texas Press
- 2012 "ReFramed: In Conversation with Rita Leistner, *The Edward Curtis Project*," by Barbara Davidson, in *The Los Angeles Times*, July 18, 2012
- 2011 "The Frozen Bodies of Edward S. Curtis," *The Literary Review of Canada*, by Wanda Nanabush, April 2011
- 2011 "Photography and Activism," *Canadian Art*, Web Features video, Fall 2011
- 2010 "Look Closely: Award-winning photojournalist Rita Leistner shines a light on North American native communities," by Jason McBride, in *U of T Magazine*, Winter 2010
- 2009 "Shadows and Light—The piercing perspectives of photojournalist Rita Leistner," by Chantal Braganza, in *The Ryerson Review of Journalism*, Summer 2009

## **Film**

- 2016 *One Picture at a Time* (Documentary Short Film, 8 min) about the making of her book *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*, Directed by Sarah Martin

## **Television**

- 2014 The Agenda with Steve Paikin, “War through the Lens”  
2013 The Agenda with Steve Paikin, “A Picture’s Worth”

## **Selected PHOTOJOURNALISM (accompanying text by other writers)**

*Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, The Walrus, GEO France, Libération, Time, Newsweek, The Los Angeles Times, The Australian Journal of Photojournalism, The Globe and Mail, Maclean’s, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Phnom Penh Post, Up Here (the magazine of Canada’s arctic), Mother Jones, ZUM: Revista de Fotografía (Brazil), Colors, Chinese Photography Magazine, and many more.*

## **TEACHING**

- 2010 – 2016 As a Sessional Professor at The University of Toronto, created original course, “The Art and Purpose of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography” and co-created new program in Creativity and Society

## **SELECTED PUBLIC LECTURES AND PANELS**

- 2017 “From the Battlefield to the Cut Block,” The University of Toronto  
“The Art and Science behind The Tree Planters exhibition,” Stephen Bulger Gallery
- 2016 Centro de Fotografía de Montevideo, Uruguay  
Roberto Mata Taller de Fotografía, Caracas, Venezuela  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico D.F.
- 2015 Photoville Festival, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, ON  
The School of Visual Arts, New York, NY  
The Bronx Documentary Center, New York  
Ryerson University, Converge Lecture Series, Toronto, ON
- 2014 The International Centre of Photography, book launch, New York, NY  
The Northrop Frye Centre, The University of Toronto, book launch, Toronto, ON  
Spur Festival of Arts and Letters, “Art & War,” Toronto, ON  
L’université de La Rochelle, France
- 2013 Keynote Speaker, Canadian Conference of College Photography Educators, Charlottetown, PEI  
“Iraq War—Ten Years Later,” Public Radio International Lecture Series, (with Sebastian Junger, Bob Woodruff and U.S. Army Col. Ross Coffman), Boston, MA.

## **COLLECTIONS**

The Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Canada  
The Comanche National Museum, Oklahoma, USA  
The George Eastman House International Museum of Photography, Rochester, USA  
Le musée du nouveau monde (Museum of the New World), La Rochelle, France  
The North Vancouver Museum, North Vancouver, B.C. Canada  
Imago Mundi Luciano Benetton Collection, Italy

## **SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS**

Finalist for the 2017 Robert Gardner Photography Fellowship at Harvard University; Finalist for three Media Ecology Association Awards 2014 for *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*; Recipient of three Canadian National Magazine Awards gold medals, shortlisting for a Carter Centre Fellowship for Mental Health Journalism, the Massey Fellowship, and an International Women's Media Foundation Courage in Journalism Award; awarded Canada Council for the Arts Project Grant 2010; Awarded Arts Partners in Creative Development Grant 2007; Awarded Ben and Jerry's Foundation Grant 2005.

## **LANGUAGES**

English: Mother tongue

French: Full proficiency

Spanish: Working proficiency