STEPHEN BULGER GALLERY

RITA LEISTNER

(b. 1964, Scarborough, Canada)

EDUCATION

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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 The Tree Planters, Art Toronto, Solo Booth Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2018 The Edward Curtis Project, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, Puebla, Mexico
- 2017 The Tree Planters, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2016 Buscando a Marshall McLuhan en Afganistán: del teléfono inteligente al paladio, Centro de Fotografía de Montevideo, Uruguay

 Levant Trilogy: Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, 2006 2015, Fotofestiwal Łótź, 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, Toronto, Canada Miklat: The Bomb Shelter Project, The Galleries of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel
- 2014 À la recherche de Marshall McLuhan en Afghanistan, Gallery Pierre Léon, L'Alliance française de Toronto, Toronto, Canada 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 Great Canadian Theatre Company and The National Arts Centre of Canada, Ottawa, Canada The Edward Curtis Project, feature exhibition, Ecocentrix: Indigenous Arts, Sustainable Acts,
 - Presented by the Indigeneity in the Contemporary World Project and the European Research Council, The Bargehouse, London, England.
- 2010 *The Edward Curtis Project*, "Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad," 2010 Winter Olympics, North Vancouver Museum, Canada
- 2009 My Space, focus on residents of the Downtown Eastside, from The Edward Curtis Project, W2 Community Media Arts Flack Block Gallery "pop up exhibition", Vancouver, Canada The Last Lumberjacks, Pierre Léon Gallery, Toronto
- 2007 Portraitscapes of War (1): Lebanon, 2006, The Photo Passage at Harbourfont, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 The Women of al Rashad, Gallery Gachet, World Mad Pride Festival, Vancouver, Canada
- 2003 Crazy Horse in Iraq and Kuwait, The Stephen Willey Gallery, Savannah, USA

1999 What Then? Portraits of Cambodia, The Foreign Correspondents Club of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

DIGITAL STORYTELLING

2017 From Janet with Love ("Legacies 150" Interactive) The National Film Board of Canada. photography by Rita Leistner, written by Helene Klodawsky. 2018 World Press Photo Digital Storytelling Award Nominee.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Canada: Art and Culture, The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada Imago Mundi—Great and North, Onsite Gallery, Toronto, Canada From Janet with Love, World Press Photo Exhibition, Amsterdam, and other cities around the world.
- National Film Board of Canada Legacies 150, From Janet with Love, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, Canada
 National Film Board of Canada Legacies 150, From Janet with Love, Canadian Museum of Immigration, Halifax, Canada
- 2013 Portraits by Iconic Canadian Photographers, Maclean's Magazine, CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, Canada
- 2012 Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, The Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey, Gaziantaep, Turkey

 Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, The Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey, Ankara, Turkey
- 2011 *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*, The Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*, The Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey, Sulleymaniya, Iraq
- Selections from *The Edward Curtis Project*, The Annenberg Space for Photography, Los Angeles, CA
 Mother and Daughter, PX3 Prix de la Photo, Paris, France
 Selections from *The Edward Curtis Project*, HOST Gallery, London, England
- 2008 Iraq Through the Lens of Vietnam, The Brighton Photo Biennial, England Battlespace: Unrealities of War, Gallery FCB, New York, NY Bienvenue, La maison de la culture Frontenac, Montreal, QC
- 2007 Know War!, The George Eastman House International Museum of Photography, Rochester, NY Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, Odegaard Library, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
 - *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, American Public Health Association National Conference, WA*
 - *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, Aughinbauch Gallery, Messiah College, Grantham, PA*
 - *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*, East End Arts Council, Riverhead, NY
 - *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, Atlanta Photography Group, Atlanta, GA*
- 2006 Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, CRASHarts, Phoenix, AZ Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, Orange County Community College, Middletown, NY

Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, CONTACT Photography Festival, Lennox Contemporary, Toronto, ON

Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, University of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, AZ

Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, The Photographic Gallery, New York, NY

Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq, The Redux Gallery, New York, NY

- 2005 The Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery Biennial, Kitchener, ON
- 2003 American Women Wrestlers, Visa pour l'image, Perpignan, France
- 2001 The Last Jews of Vilnius with Love Bomb, Live Art Space, Toronto, ON

BOOKS

- 2014 Leistner, Rita, *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*. Foreword by Julian Stallabrass. London: Intellect Books / The University of Chicago Press, February 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*. Foreword by Philip Jones Griffiths. Vermont: Chelsea Green, 2005.

ESSAYS AND VISUAL FEATURES IN PERIODICALS AND BOOKS

- 2019 Leistner, Rita, "The Tree Planters", National Geographic (online feature), April Leistner, Rita, "The Tree Planters", GEO France (feature), June Leistner, Rita, "The Tree Planters" in Wood Urbanism: From the Molecular to the Territorial, by Daniel Ibanez, Jane Hutton and Kiel Moe. Barcelona: Actar Publishers
- Leistner, Rita, "Photography Goes to War," (essay) in Neumüller, Moritz, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Photography and Visual Culture*, London: Routledge, 2018.
 Leistner, Rita, "The Tree Planters," (visual feature) in Hutton, Jane, Daniel Ibañez and Kiel Moe eds. *Wood Urbanism*. New York: Actar, 2018.
- Leistner, Rita, "Embedded with Murders," (essay + photos) 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," (essay) in the Literary Review of Canada, Spring 2014.
- 2012 Leistner, Rita, "Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan," 12-part series (essay + photos), 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," (essay + photos) in *Idea&s The Arts and Science Review*, University of Toronto Leistner, Rita, "War Stories: Portraitscapes of Lebanon," in *The Walrus*, September 2007. Leistner, Rita and Timothy Dylan Wood, "Hanging the Past," in *Idea&s The Arts and Science Review*, University of Toronto, Spring, 2007.

- Leistner, Rita, "The Last Lumberjacks," in *The Walrus*, March, 2007.
- 2006 Leistner, Rita, "Portraitscapes of War: Lebanon 2006," in *The Australian Photojournalist*, 2006 Leistner, Rita, "The Women of Al Rashad," (text + photos) 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," (article + photos) Cover Feature in *The Walrus*, February 2004. Nominated for 6 Canadian National Magazine Awards including Portrait Photography, Investigative Journalism, Personal Journalism, and Photojournalism.
 - Leistner, Rita, "The Road to Najaf," (photo + article) in *Idea&s The Arts and Science Review*, University of Toronto, Spring 2005.
 - Leistner, Rita, "Death is our Business: The Gravediggers of Najaf during the Siege," (photos + text) in *COLORS 63: FRONTIERS*, Winter 2004/2005.
 - Leistner, Rita, "Kurdish Express," (photos + article) in *Outpost*, July/August 2004.
- 2003 Leistner, Rita, with text by Amy Kayishian, "Mama Said Knock You Out," (photos) in *Bust*, Spring 2003.

ESSAYS IN EXHIBITION CATALOGS

- 2016 Leistner, Rita, "La sensación en los ojos de Elsa Medina," in *Elsa Medina*, Mraz, John, ed., Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, Puebla, Mexico.
- 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.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS (PHOTOJOURNALISM, TEXT BY OTHER WRITERS)

Newsweek, Time, Rolling Stone, The Walrus, The New York Times, Italian Vanity Fair, GEO France, Colors, Maclean's, The Australian Journal of Photojournalism, Ideas, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, Libération, Le Monde, The Daily Mail, The San Francisco Chronicle, Outpost, The Phnom Penh Post, The Cambodia Daily, Up Here, Alphabet City, BUST, The Wallstreet Journal, Mother Jones, Adbusters, The Bund Editorial (China), The Financial Post, Bagnews, Daily Kos, The Digital Journalist, ZUM: Revista de Fotografia (Brazil), The Los Angeles Times.

FILMOGRAPHY

The 21st Chromosome (Documentary Short) (2014) Director of Photography.

Awards for The 21st Chromosome:

Audience Favourite 2nd Place, Official Selection 2015 — Cinema Touching Disability, TX

Official Selection 2015 — ReFrame, Peterborough International Film Festival, ON

Official Selection 2014 — Hamilton Film Festival, Hamilton, ON

Miklat (Documentary Short) (2013) Director, Producer and Cinematographer.

Awards for *Miklat*:

Official Selection 2014 — American Documentary Film Festival, Palm Springs, CA

Official Selection 2014 — Winnipeg Reel to Real Film Festival, Winnipeg, MB

Official Selection 2014 — HollyShorts, Hollywood, CA

Official Selection 2013 — Bend River Documentary Film Festival, OR

Official Selection 2013 — Chagrin Falls Documentary Film Festival, OH

Official Selection 2013 — New Orleans International Film Festival, LA Official Selection 2013 — International Film Festival of Cinematic Arts, Los Angeles, CA Award of Excellence, Best Shorts Competition, 2014

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 Finalist, Robert Gardner Photography Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2017 Associate Fellow, Victoria University in the University of Toronto (2012 present)
- Victoria University Conference Grant, "The Pictures from Syria" web conference co-produced by Rita Leistner and Webby Award-winning Bagnews (now known as, Reading the Pictures) Shortlist, Massey Fellowship, University of Toronto
- 2010 Canada Council for the Arts, Visual Arts Grant for Portraitscapes of War II: Israel
- 2009 Ontario Arts Council Exhibition Grant, *Les dernier bûcherons / The Last Lumberjacks* at the Alliance Française, Toronto, ON
- 2007 Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad, 2010 Winter Olympics, Arts Partners in Creative Development Project Grant for *The Edward Curtis Project*
- 2006 Shortlist, Carter Foundation for Mental Health Journalism Fellowship
- 2005 Ben & Jerry's Foundation Grant to tour *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*
- 2003 Canada Council for the Arts, Exhibition Travel Grant to attend Visa pour l'image, France CNN bursary with Rory Peck Trust, Media Training in Conflict Zones
- 1990 Grant for graduate studies in Comparative Literature, University of Toronto

AWARDS

- World Press Photo Digital Storytelling Award Nominee, *From Janet with Love*, for The National Film Board of Canada
- 2015 The Dorothy Lee Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Ecology of Culture Finalist, for *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*
 - The Lewis Mumford Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Ecology of Technics Finalist, for *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*
 - The Marshall McLuhan Award for Outstanding Book in the Field of Media Ecology Shortlist, for *Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan*
- 2013 Best Shorts, Award of Excellence, Documentary Short Film, Miklat
- 2009 PX3 Prix de la Photo Paris 3rd Place, Portraiture for "Mother and Daughter"
 The Design Club of Canada Award of Merit for "Portraitscapes of War: Lebanon, 2006," in *The Walrus*
- 2008 Canadian National Magazine Awards Honourable Mention, Photojournalism, "Portraitscapes of War: Lebanon, 2006," in *The Walrus*
- 2007 The Design Club of Canada Gold Award for "The Last Lumberjacks," in *The Walrus* American Photography 23 Winner in Fine Art category, for "Portraitscapes of War: Lebanon, 2006"
 - Applied Arts Magazine Winner in Photojournalism category, for "Portraitscapes of War: Lebanon, 2006"
- 2006 Canadian National Magazine Awards Gold Medal, Words and Pictures for "The Women of al Rashad," in *The Walrus*
 - Canadian National Magazine Awards Honourable Mention, Photojournalism, for "The Women of al Rashad," *The Walrus*

- Canadian National Magazine Awards Honourable Mention, Photojournalism, for "The Road to Najaf," in *Idea&s The Arts and Science Review*, University of Toronto
- 2005 Nominated for Courage in Journalism Award, International Women's Media Foundation Canadian National Magazine Awards Gold Medal, Portraits, for "Sisters in Arms," *Maclean's* Canadian National Magazine Awards Honourable Mention, Portraits, for "The Burning Tip of the Spear," in *The Walrus*
 - Canadian National Magazine Awards Honourable Mention, Words and Pictures, for "The Burning Tip of the Spear," in *The Walrus*
 - Canadian National Magazine Awards Honourable Mention, Investigative Reporting, for "The Burning Tip of the Spear," in *The Walrus*
 - Canadian National Magazine Awards, 2005 Honourable Mention, Politics and Public Interest, for "The Burning Tip of the Spear," in *The Walrus*
 - NPPA, Best of Photojournalism, First Prize, Recurring Magazine Feature: for "Sisters in Arms," in *Maclean's*
 - The Design Club of Canada, Honourable Mention, for "The Road to Najaf," in *Idea&s The Arts and Science Review*, University of Toronto
- 1997 Canadian National Magazine Awards, Gold Medal, Words and Pictures for "Screefers The Treeplanters of Canada," Rita Leistner, ed. in *Canadian Geographic*

REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS AND PROFILES

- 2018 "Where We Are Now: Stories from an Accelerated Culture: A Conversation with Rita Leistner," by Bill Kouwenhoven, *Afterimage*, January 2018
- 2017 "An Acclaimed War Photographer Turns Her Lens on Canada's Tree Planters," VICE Canada, October 2017
 - "Seven amazing portraits of tree planters working in Canada's remote backcountry," by Jessica Bloom, Toronto Life, October 2017
 - "Everyone Cries in the Cut Block," by Kerry Manders, DROOL, October 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
- 2016 One Picture at a Time (Documentary Short Film, 8 min) about Rita Leistner and the making of Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan, Directed by Sarah Martin
- 2015 "Rita Leistner's Quest for Marshall McLuhan," ARTORONTO, May 16 2015
- "Confessions of a Digital Naïve," *Media and Culture Reviews*, July 16 2014"A New War a New Medium," *Source: The Photographic Review*, by David Bate, London, Spring 2014
 - "First New Book of 2014 is a Doosie!" The International Center of Photography Library Blog, by Deirdre Donohue, January 2014
 - "Les âmes grises: récits photographiques d'après-guerre," by Lorraine Rossignol, *Le Monde*, Paris, July 5, 2014
 - "Rita Leistner au Musée Albert-Kahn," L'oeil de la photographie, 26 juin 2014
 - "New Photos from Iraq Trouble Photographer Who Covered the Last War," Produced by Stephen Snyder, Public Radio International (PRI), June 20, 2014
 - "Rita Leistner, Photographe (Canada)," par Cyril Mounier, *Artes Magazine*, La Rochelle, France le 27 février 2014
 - "Marshall McLuhan, Green Lantern and the War in Afghanistan," by Diana Kuprel, in the University of Toronto Alumni Interviews, February 2014

- "Rita Leistner and Smartphone Photography," Chinese Photography, June 2014.
- 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, 2013.
- 2012 "ReFramed: In Conversation with Rita Leistner," by Barbara Davidson, in *The Los Angeles Times*, July 18, 2012
- "Photography and Activism," *Canadian Art*, Web Features video, Fall 2011
 "Photographers," *Canadian Art*, Web Features video, Spring 2011
 The Frozen Bodies of Edward S. Curtis," *The Literary Review of Canada*, by Wanda Nanabush, April 2011
- "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
 RCI (Radio Canada International) Rita Leistner, *Le Projet Edward Curtis* "An Intervention into Native Identities Leads to More Questions," *The Globe and Mail*, by Michael Harris, January 24, 2010
- 2009 "Shadows and Light—The piercing perspectives of photojournalist Rita Leistner," by Chantal Braganza, in *The Ryerson Review of Journalism*, Summer 2009
- 2008 RCI (Radio Canada International), Macadam, Rita Leistner, Les derniers bücherons
- "You Weren't Meant to See This," *Rabble.ca*, May 16, 2006
 "The Treacherous Medium: Why Photography Critics Hate Photographs," by Susie Linfield, *Boston Review*, Sept 2006
 "Unembedded," *Photo 8*, by Ruth Hedges, May 2006
- 2005 CBC Television, The HOUR Rita Leistner in Iraq
 ABC Television The Mix Kael Alford and Rita Leistner interviewed about *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*TVO with Steve Paikin Rita Leistner in Iraq
 "Live from Iraq," Review of *Unembedded: Four Independent Photojournalists on the War in Iraq*, by Nina Berman, *Alternet*, Dec 2005
- 2004 CBC Radio, The Current with Anna Maria Tremonti Rita Leistner interviews about *The Women of Al Rashad*CBC Radio, Toronto Here and Now, with Matt Galloway Rita Leistner in Iraq
 "Going to War with Crazy Horse," by Sonia Verma, *The Toronto Star*, January 2004
- 2003 "Rita Leistner," The Hampson Interview by Sarah Hampson, *The Globe and Mail*, June 5th, 2003

TEACHING

2010 – 2016 The University of Toronto. As a Sessional Instructor, created original course, "The Art and Purpose of Photojournalism and Documentary Photography."

SELECTED PUBLIC LECTURES AND PANELS

- 2017 "From the Field to the Gallery Wall," Phase One Stand Out Photo Forum, Toronto"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
- 2016 Roberto Mata Taller de Fotografía, Caracas, Venezuela Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico D.F. Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico D.F.
- 2015 Photoville Festival, Brooklyn, NY, USAScotiabank 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

The University of Beer Sheva, Israel

2014 The International Centre of Photography, New York, NY

TVO The Agenda: War through the Lens

The Northrop Frye Centre, The University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

University of Toronto Later Life Learning, Toronto, ON

Spur Festival, Toronto, ON

L'université de La Rochelle France

2013 TVO The Agenda: A Picture's Worth

Sheridan College, Toronto, ON

Canadian Conference of College Photography Educators (keynote), 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 Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada

The Toronto Dominion Bank

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, La Rochelle, France

The North Vancouver Museum, North Vancouver, B.C. Canada

Imago Mundi Luciano Benetton Collection, Italy

LANGUAGES

English: Mother tongue French: Full proficiency Spanish: Working proficiency

JOBS

| 1997-1998 | Teacher of English as a Second Language, Phnom Penh, Cambodia |
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| 1992-1997 | Film Lighting Specialist, Grip / Electric, Toronto |
| 1983-1992 | Planted over a half a million trees in Canada (seasonal) |