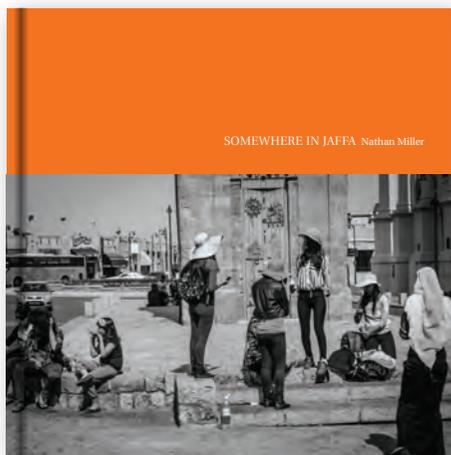

Nathan Miller

SOMEWHERE IN JAFFA



In his latest body of work *Somewhere in Jaffa*, Israeli born Australian photographer Nathan Miller captures with great sensitivity the visually captivating environs and atmosphere of the Israeli city of Jaffa, along with the rhythms of daily life there from the perspective of its diverse population.

The recorded history of Jaffa goes back to biblical times. Jaffa is the oldest port in the world and has had numerous conquerors including Saladin, King Richard the Lionhearted and Napoleon Bonaparte. Today, Jaffa is a part of the city of Tel Aviv and is a unique region with a varied population of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Jaffa currently has 46,000 residents, of whom 16,000 are Arab citizens of Israel and 30,000 are Jews. The city is a hub of culture, entertainment, food and tourism.

It is also a place of contradictions: socially, economically, politically and visually. Tensions and contradictions - in particular between the traditional and the contemporary-abound. Nathan has not however tried to present a comprehensive view of this complex city and its population. Rather as he says, he “just aimed to frame moments as (he) found them in the streets and homes of the city, hoping to capture the ambiance and the diversity of Jaffa, keeping in mind ethnicity, tradition, the old and the modern.”

In this he richly succeeds and we are left with an indelible and nuanced portrait of a part of the world of which we have very little real understanding. Indeed most significantly, Nathan challenges preconceptions and clichéd assumptions regarding the lives of Arabs and Jews within Israel. This body of work reflects on Arabs and Jews living in one community.

The photographs are accompanied by trilingual (English, Hebrew and Arabic) essays by Nathan and by Jaffa born Arab - Israeli social and political activist, Asma Agbarieh-Zahalka.

Nathan Miller has exhibited his photographs in Australia, the USA and France. He established his reputation with his documentation of the Mississippi Delta, which was exhibited at the Monash Gallery of Art in 2008 and the Mississippi Blues Museum in 2010 and published as a book, “Notes from the Mississippi Delta” in 2009. He recently participated in a group show of images from district 18 in Paris at the Institut des Cultures d’Islam (ICI) in Paris (2013).

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Launch:

Saturday, May 24, 2014, 2.30 - 4.30pm

Atrium Gallery
Level 35, Sofitel Melbourne On Collins.
25 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

To be launched by Natalie King, curator, writer and Senior Research Fellow, VCA, University of Melbourne

An exhibition of selected works from the book will be on shown at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, Apr 13 – Jul 6, 2014

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