

Nikolaj Kunsthal
November 28 2014 - January 18 2015

“AFGHAN TALES”

OPENING NOVEMBER 27 2014 5-7 PM



Photo: Fardin Waezi

**Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Centre,
presents the photo exhibition *Afghan Tales***

From November 28, Nikolaj Kunsthal presents the photo exhibition Afghan Tales. It presents a new look on Afghanistan through the best of Afghan contemporary photography.

After the Taliban's total ban on photography, a young generation of Afghan photographers now breathes new life into this medium. The photo exhibition *Afghan Tales* is a unique collection of photographic works by more than 20 of the best young Afghans photographers, offering a both humorous and serious insight into today's Afghanistan.

This is the first time that a Danish audience is given the opportunity to see Afghanistan through the gaze of local photographers. Drawing on documentarism,

press photography and contemporary art, these diverse expressions contribute to a powerful and inspirational look at Afghanistan.

The exhibition provides the opportunity to add nuance to and broaden our knowledge of a country that everybody knows of but few actually know very much about. At the same time, *Afghan Tales* presents a platform from which to meet upcoming names from the budding Afghan contemporary art scene.

Says Thomas Damgaard, partner of *Commerce & Culture*, about the exhibition:

“These images shed light on a rich variety of aspects of life as it is being led in Afghanistan. Among these are pictures of the everyday life we rarely get to see in this country. I expect that the exhibition at Nikolaj Kunsthal will raise more questions than it answers. It will challenge the viewer and hopefully leave all of us with a more nuanced conception of Afghanistan”.

Several of the photographers of the exhibition have experienced threats against their lives or abductions and arrests due to the stories that they have pursued – but sometimes also merely for being photographers.

Afghan photographer Barat Ali Batoor, one of the participants of the exhibition, stresses the importance of communicating the untold stories about Afghan society:

“I chose the profession of photography because of the oppression my generation and the generation before me had been a part of – our stories were always untold. I would like to play my role as a storyteller, telling these stories. It is therefore of great importance to me that I am able to tell the stories of my people through photography, and Afghan Tales offers the perfect setting for that”.

***Afghan Tales* will be shown at Nikolaj Kunsthal from November 28 2014 to January 18 2015.**

Subsequently, parts of the exhibition will be presented at The Danish Museum of Photography in Herning from January 30 to April 18 2015.

ABOUT COMMERCE & CULTURE

Created by the Danish company *Commerce & Culture*, the exhibition *Afghan Tales* is the outcome of its longstanding involvement in the development and professionalisation of Afghan photography. Through its extensive local network and knowledge of Afghan photography, *Commerce & Culture* has established one of the most comprehensive archives of contemporary Afghan photography, on the basis of which the exhibition *Afghan Tales* has been curated.

See more about *Commerce & Culture*: www.commerceandculture.org

Additional information about the exhibition and the photographers on:
<http://www.nikolajkunsthaldk/da/udstillinger/afghan-ales>

<http://www.afghantales.org/>

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Photo: Basir Seerat



Photo: Fraidoon Poya



Photo: Fardin Waezi



Photo: Mumtaz Khan



Photo: Najibullah Musaffer