

# In the Shadow of the Pyramids

by Laura El-Tantawy

Opening night **March 5, 2015, 7 PM**

Exhibition runs through **May 13, 2015**

Alserkal Avenue, Unit 36, Street 8, Al Quoz, Dubai



---

## About the exhibition

---

Gulf Photo Plus (GPP) is pleased to present a series of photographs by Laura El-Tantawy, a British/Egyptian photographer living between Cairo and London. El-Tantawy began this series in 2005 when she was compelled to explore the essence of Egyptian identity in the hope of coming to terms with her own. Guided by childhood memories, her photographs are not meant to be objective observations of a nation, but rather personal reflections of Egypt through her own eyes.

In the Shadow of the Pyramids is a first person perspective exploring memory and identity. With images spanning 2005 to 2014, what began as a look in the mirror to understand the essence of Egyptian identity expanded into an exploration of the trials and tribulations of a turbulent nation. The result is dark, sentimental and passionate.

---

The work was released on January 25, 2015 as a book under the same title. Juxtaposing the innocence of the past with the obscurity of the present, the book is an experience, edited to look like a one night's encounter. A peaceful and tranquil day suddenly turns violent and chaotic, it's claustrophobic, until a new dawn rises and there is hope again. A variety of photo books can be found celebrating the Ancient Egyptians and examining Egypt's archaeological history, however few explore contemporary Egypt. "In the Shadow of the Pyramids" reflects on the emotions, dreams and realities shared by a community within the flux of reformation. El-Tantawy will be available for book singings and print signings while in Dubai until March 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### About Laura El-Tantawy

---

Laura El-Tantawy is a British/Egyptian photographer. She was born in Worcestershire, England to Egyptian parents & grew up between Saudi Arabia, Egypt & the US. In 2002, she started her career as a newspaper photographer with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel & Sarasota Herald-Tribune (USA). In 2006, she became freelance so she could focus on pursuing personal projects. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia (USA) with dual degrees in journalism & political science. Her work has appeared in various publications worldwide, including Time Magazine, The Sunday Times Magazine, Burn Magazine and National Geographic.

Find interviews and work by El-Tantawy at [www.lauraeltantawy.com](http://www.lauraeltantawy.com)  
More about the book at [www.intheshadowofthepyramids.com](http://www.intheshadowofthepyramids.com)

#### About Gulf Photo Plus

---

Gulf Photo Plus (GPP) is Dubai's Photography Centre, dedicated to developing the knowledge and appreciation of photography through education, exhibitions, and a variety of events held throughout the year. Over the course of ten years, GPP has garnered an international reputation as a leader in photography events. It exists at the epicenter of the photography community in the MENA region, and continues to develop its international presence through its GPP PopUp events held around the world from Seattle to Singapore. GPP's annual calendar includes photography exhibitions, movie nights, free artist talks, regular photography workshops, and Slidefest evenings where local creatives can share personal projects and find new inspiration.

\*\*\*

For further information about the exhibition, please, contact:

Anna Arutyunova

[anna@gulfphotoplus.com](mailto:anna@gulfphotoplus.com)

T: +971 4 380 8545

M: +971 56 182913

