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# MILLS

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2016



*Alee*, Elena Dorfman, 2013, archival ink jet print on paper. Courtesy of Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane.  
***Hi-res available upon request.***

## ELENA DORFMAN: SYRIA'S LOST GENERATION | JAN 18–MAR 12, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017 | 6:00-8:00 PM

**Oakland, CA—October 26, 2017.** The Mills College Art Museum is pleased to announce *Elena Dorfman: Syria's Lost Generation* on view from January 18 to March 12, 2017. Through portraiture and audio recordings, Elena Dorfman (1965- ) offers a humanistic perspective to the Syrian conflict, a global crisis that has claimed more than 470,000 lives and driven 6.5 million people from their homes.

On assignment with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2013, Dorfman

documented exiled Syrians in Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. *Syria's Lost Generation* documents a small fraction of a population disproportionately affected by the war: teenagers. Dorfman was drawn most strongly to Syrian youth, explaining, "They seemed particularly shell-shocked and bereft . . . they spoke to me of powerful longing and frustration." Suffering physical and psychological ills, facing uncertain futures, and fearful of retaliation, the individual appearing in these works presented themselves to Dorfman with the hope their stories would be told.

The ten-month project built on her previous work as a documentarian—in particular, *The C-Word* (1998), a photographic series of teenagers living with cancer—and her background as a portraiture photographer for publications such as *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, *Time*, and *Fortune*.

Since graduating from Sarah Lawrence College in 1988, Elena Dorfman has specialized in documenting extreme circumstances and unusual subjects. She has exhibited her work at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Museum of Modern Art. Dorfman lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

This exhibition is organized by the Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane with funding from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

*This exhibition will be presented simultaneously with an exhibition of recent work by Syrian-American artist Diana Al-Hadid.* [mcam.mills.edu/exhibitions/upcoming](http://mcam.mills.edu/exhibitions/upcoming)

## **RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

(Visit <http://mcam.mills.edu> for full details)

### **Opening Reception**

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 | 6:00-8:00 pm

Come celebrate the opening of *Elena Dorfman: Syria's Lost Generation* and the exhibition *Diana Al-Hadid* featuring recent sculpture and wall constructions from the eponymous Syrian-American artist. Refreshments provided.

Additional programs will be announced.

## **ABOUT THE MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM**

Founded in 1925, the Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. [mcam.mills.edu](http://mcam.mills.edu)

Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11:00 am–4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:00 am–7:30 pm. Admission is FREE for all exhibitions and programs unless noted.

Visitors to the MCAM during the run of the Dorfman and Al-Hadid exhibitions (January 18-Mar 13, 2017) will enjoy a discount ticket price at the San Jose Museum of Art to see their exhibition *Diana Al-Hadid: Liquid City*. [sjmusart.org](http://sjmusart.org)

Images below also available in hi-res upon requests (on view at MCAM):



Left to right:

2. *Dvaa*, 2013, archival ink jet print on paper. Courtesy of Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane.

3. *Hamada*, 2013, archival ink jet print on paper. Courtesy of Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane.

5. *Tarak*, 2013, archival ink jet print on paper. Courtesy of Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane.

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