

SPAZIO LABO'

CENTRO DI FOTOGRAFIA

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FAULT LINES/Turkey/East/West

Solo exhibit of George Georgiou

October 28th - November 19th 2010

Monday-Friday 10 am-1 pm / 4-8 pm

free admittance

Opening:

Thursday October 28th 2010

h 7.30 pm

with the participation of George Georgiou and Vanessa Winship

free admittance

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Spazio Labo' - Center of Photography

via Frassinago 43/2c

Bologna

Info and press office:

Laura De Marco

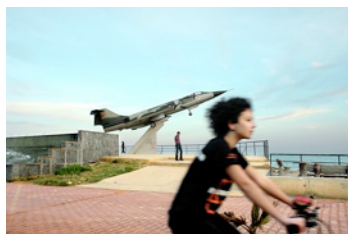
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Press Release:

Fault Lines/Turkey/East/West, a solo exhibit of photographer George Georgiou, will open Thursday October 28th from 7.30pm at Spazio Labo' - Center of Photography in Bologna. George Georgiou will participate at the opening reception.

The exhibit will be on display, free admittance, from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 1 pm and from 4pm to 8pm until Friday November 19th. For appointments in other days/hours please contact +393283383634 or info@spaziolabo.it.

Turkey is a strategically important nation, poised geographically and symbolically between Europe and Asia. But the tensions at the heart of Turkey are becoming increasingly severe. A struggle is taking place between modernity and tradition, secularism and Islamism, democracy and repression—often in unlikely and contradictory combinations. It is these contradictions the work addresses and the complexities of a large country that was a former imperial empire searching for a modern identity.

While living in Turkey for four and a half years, Georgiou was surprised at how quickly change was taking place: landscapes, towns, and cities reshaped, an extensive road network under construction, town centers "beautified," and large apartment blocks springing up at a rapid rate around every town and city. Almost always, the architecture and infrastructure follow the same blueprint. Cities are becoming carbon copies of each other. This modernization is designed to handle the mass migration from village to city that is transforming Turkey.

Istanbul, a city of a million people in 1960, is now one of the world's largest urban sprawls with an estimated population of over 15 million. The migration is raising a host of new issues. One of the most immediate concerns is the rapid disintegration of community in Turkish villages and towns.

Turkey is often seen as the country that will bridge the gap between the West and the Middle East. At the moment Turkey is at a political crossroads that will define the very nature of the country.

George's work seeks to address and question the concept of East and West and the process of modernization, urbanization, and national identity that is happening against a rising tide of nationalism and religion. He has chosen to represent the changes by focusing on the quiet everyday life that most people in Turkey experience.

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George Georgiou was born in London to Greek Cypriot parents. He has photographed extensively in the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Turkey for the last decade, living and working in Serbia, Greece and for the last four years, Istanbul. His work is focused on identity and people caught between communities, cultures, and ideologies. Awards include two World Press Photo prizes in 2003 and 2005, a Pictures of the Year International first prize for Istanbul Bombs in 2004 and a Nikon Press Award UK for best photo essay 2000. In September 2008 he joined Prospekt Agency, Italy.

For more information: georgegeorgiou.net

Recent reviews of George Georgiou's work can be found here: [The New York Times](#) - [The New Yorker](#)

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