



A LEBANESE NIGHT

**A Beirut in black in the 43 images found in the first book
by the young photographer Giulio Rimondi.**

“To speak about, to tell tales of Beirut is not easy without delving into communal places. What I like about Giulio’s photos is that “static vitality” that the give off”.
Renato Miracco, critic

“A Beirut night, without whores, without neon lights, without parties, and not staged, not rehearsed, occupied with singular men and women. The overflowing black becomes a silence”.
Ferdinando Scianna, photographer

Italy, November 11th, 2010_ In the deserted station at 4 in the morning, a family waits for a bus to Turkey. A late night on-looker lights another cigarette. An Arab beggar sits in front of the mosque. The images found in **Beirut Nocturne** are immersed in an overflowing darkness, only accompanied by verses from the Lebanese poet **Christian Ghazi**, whose texts have framed the work of the photographer. Here we find intimate, lonely atmospheres and difficult memories of war; nothing of the famous Beirut nightlife full of riches and sex. In this city at night we discover silences from which light escapes, if only for a brief moment, through people and lives on the margins.

The book was created in Autumn 2009 and Spring 2010. It was born out of the collaboration and the friendship between a young reporter and a venerable Lebanese poet, who with this book looked to form a bond between the images and the text. In doing so they have created a new form of “caption poetics” in which the verse mixes deeply into the photography, all in black and white, covering the various themes and pieces in the book. The project *Beirut Nocturne*, with an introduction by **Renato Miracco** and a presentation by **Ferdinando Scianna**, will be published as a volume by **Charta** and distributed internationally in January 2011.

The images that make up the book *Beirut Nocturne* will give life to a series of exhibitions in galleries and public spaces in Milan, Paris, New York, Washington and Beirut. The first exhibition is scheduled for March 2011 at the **Galérie Lucie Weill & Seligmann** of Paris, while the last show is scheduled for September 2011 in the celebrated **Leica Gallery of Broadway** in New York. The **Italian Cultural Institute of Beirut** was also involved in the project as it will curate the presentation of the book in the Lebanese capital. There will also be an exhibition in July 2011 at **Espace Kettaneh Kunigk** of Beirut, in collaboration with **Galerie Tanit** of Munich.

In Italy *Beirut Nocturne* will be managed by **Galleria MC₂** of Milan, but first it will debut on Thursday, 16 December at the bookstore **Feltrinelli in Bologna** and Friday, 17 December at **Spazio LaBo'** also in Bologna. For this occasion there will be a sound performance that bridges classical Arabic traditions with sounds recorded in Lebanon at night (Mirco Mungari and Faysal Bibi), there will also be an artistic video projection by Giulio Rimondi in collaboration with **Memoria Films of Beirut**.

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