



The exhibition is part of Photomed and the inauguration took place in the presence of the artist

## **Italian photographer Nino Migliori displays 100 photos at the Photomed exhibition held at Byblos Bank Headquarters**

Nino Migliori: The work of young Lebanese photographers is rich, diverse, sensitive, and creative

Nada Tawil: Migliori's photos draw us into a world of authenticity and sensuality

Byblos Bank launched an exhibition by renowned Italian photographer Nino Migliori, who attended the event along with art lovers and clients at the Bank's headquarters in Ashrafieh. Migliori, 88, is regarded as one of the world masters of photography.

The exhibition includes 100 photos taken by Migliori. The inauguration kicked off a series of activities that will be held from January 16 to February 15 at several art galleries and exhibition spaces in Beirut as part of Photomed, a French festival of Mediterranean photography brought to Lebanon in cooperation with Byblos Bank and others.

Migliori said that organizers had invited him last May to exhibit a selection of his works at the third edition of the prestigious Photomed festival held at Sanary Sur Mer in France. "This experience was very captivating on both cultural and humanitarian levels," he said.

He added that Lebanon was a guest of honor at the May exhibition which allowed him to closely meet famous photographers as well as discover the rich, diverse, sensitive and creative works of the young generation of Lebanese artists. "I had the opportunity and pleasure to spontaneously exchange ideas and emotions with these Lebanese artists," he noted.

Migliori explained that this encounter made him happy and enthusiastic to take part in Photomed Beirut when he received the invitation. "I am delighted to meet people with whom I share ideas and to be in direct and real contact, for the first time, with a reality soaked with a rich history."

Head of Group Communication Department at Byblos Bank Nada Tawil commented on the Italian artist's work highlighting that it draws us into a world of authenticity, lightness, accuracy and sensuality. "As we go through his pictures, we can almost feel the sun caressing

our skins and we can hear the children's laughs and the accordion playing. It is through engaging in his work that one can discover and appreciate it," she added.

Jean-Luc Monterosso, artistic director of Photomed, noted that "Nino Migliori's 50 years of work in photography have taken an important place at Photomed exhibitions since 2011. Photomed reveals new talents and revisits the works of Mediterranean masters in a context of conviviality and openness to all publics. Byblos Bank honored us by hosting the exhibition of Nino Migliori who has always sought to follow different tracks in photography creation and who still surprises us with his energy and youthfulness."

Neorealism in photography is a movement that started in Italy in the midst of World War II. It was strongly inspired by photojournalism. At the time, the main objective of neorealist photographers like Nino Migliori was to awaken the citizen's social conscience toward the situation resulting from the conflict.

According to Tawil, neorealism in photography was a direct photography that involved no staging. It symbolized the day-to-day life during conflict and depicted reality without obscuring that era's political situation such as Fascism and Nazism. She explains that this type of photography aimed at spotting the light on the economic problems and social injustice without falling into a pessimistic vision. Tawil noted that this trend continued until the 1960s and it was also evident in literature and cinema.

Migliori started out in the world of photography in 1948 by taking pictures of day-to-day life in a purely documentary style. One of his most famous series is « *Walls* ».

Migliori's Polaroid photographs constitute a key part of his overall production, especially in the eighties. Polaroid actually allowed him to explore his capacity to leave his own mark on photo paper during the short developing and printing phase. At around the same time, he started producing installations/performances.

Byblos Bank supports a wide variety of art activities, especially in the field of photography. It is one of the main sponsors of photography in Lebanon and it launched in 2012 the Byblos Bank Award for Photography. The Bank will organize at its Ashrafieh headquarters the first exhibition of 2013 Award winner Ghaleb Cabbabé in early April 2014 and publish his first catalog. The winner is receiving coaching and mentorship from renowned photography experts while preparing his first exhibition.

Migliori's exposition at the Byblos Bank headquarters is held until February 15, 2014. It is open from 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. during weekdays, and from 10.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. on weekends.