

# Reza Visual Academy

ACTIVITY REPORT  
2009 - 2019



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304 122 PHOTOGRAPHS  
21 PROJECTS  
21 EXHIBITIONS

4 photo competitions

1 itinerant pedagogical coordinator

32 trainers and trained adults

316 digital cameras given

189 digital cameras lent

29 hard disks

290 memory cards

290 batteries

290 battery chargers

140 books

115 DVD

30 computers

30 PLACES

Bamako

Kabarto

Dijon

Metz

Kawergosk

Chatellerault

Nantes

Arbat

Buenos Aires

Izmir

Bondy

Saint Ouen

Librino

Paris

Toulouse

Kabul

Tabant

Whangarei

Istanbul

Gaziantep

578 YOUTHS

MAROCCAN KURDS AFGHAN  
FRENCH SYRIAN MAORI  
ARGENTINE SICILIAN  
MALIAN TURKISH  
NATIVE AMERICAN

## PRESENTATION

Created by the photojournalist Reza, the association Reza Visual Academy offers visual training for youths living in precarious societies around the world, such as refugee camps and suburbs of big cities. By learning the language of image, they are encouraged to express and share their own vision of life.

### OUR VISION ▪ **Our core value: Pedagogy**

Promote social inclusion, resilience and self-esteem through the language of image. The key that leads to the success of Reza workshops is based on informal visual education. Through sustainable projects, Reza Visual Academy focuses on creativity, sensitivity and humanism.

### OUR MISSION ▪ **Photography as a tool**

Use photography as a tool to create young active witnesses. Our mission objectives:

- Transmit the necessary skills to master the use of the photographic tools, based on Reza's experience.
- Train the youths to have a sharp eye on their surrounding environment and to develop their own visual storytelling.
- Share their testimonies with the world through international photo exhibitions.

**OUR HISTORY** ▪ Humanist and internationally renowned photographer, Reza has been offering his visual testimonies to the world for 40 years. Along with his work as a photographer, Reza is passionate about education. Before the official establishment of Reza Visual Academy, for three decades, Reza committed himself to give others the chance to learn the language of photography. Since 1983, his humanitarian commitment has been as a volunteer. He organized workshops under personal or an associative title to train youths and local photographers living in disadvantaged situations all around the world, with a particular focus on helping women and children.

**OUR PROJECTS** ▪ Reza Visual Academy/Les Ateliers Reza, works to empower youth through three main projects - Exile Voices, Urban Voices and Rural Voices. The objective is to enable youths to become active witnesses of their own stories, and become capable of expressing and sharing their daily lives with the world. With over 20 workshops installed from refugee camps in Iraqi Kurdistan to the suburbs of France, some students have even become photojournalists themselves. These projects, which at times are combined with English and Photoshop classes can last from a few months to a few years; a grand exhibition is displayed in honour of the youth who produced the work. This is a chance for the international community to never forget the conditions of our most vulnerable communities and also the creativity, beauty, and life expressed by our youths. Reza's initiative has proven successful and gives youth a sense of hope, pride, and aspiration for the future they want to shape. Each workshop begins with training by Reza himself who trains the youth and the local photographers in his pedagogical format, who then continue weekly training for students.





## REFUGEE CHILDREN EXILE VOICES

**KURDISTAN** ■ Above all, this is the story of an encounter, back in December 2013, between photographer Reza and young Syrian refugees living in a refugee camp in Iraqi Kurdistan, not far from the Syrian border. Reza was on an assignment for Arte channel; the children were hanging around, idle. Under threat of bombs, they had fled their home, their city, their country at war, with their family members for only companions.

Tell me... How long have they been living there, in such precarious conditions? They said it had been three seasons, and had been suffering from the harsh aridity of summer, the piercing humidity of autumn, and the biting cold of winter.

That was it. This is the story of sombre looks echoing to deep sadness and resignation... You know, when the childhood's glimmer is gone, when the future is made of nothing but never-ending rows of white tents that end when barbed wires appear, not a single dream of freedom remains. A refugee camp like any other? Let's say that this was an encounter in a remote and precarious city, in a muddy plain. How can you help passive victims of a situation they undergo to become actors of their own destinies? For Reza, the solution lies in the universal language of the image. Photography recounts and expresses emotions, desires

and sorrows.

And this is how the story of resiliency began.

In December, 2013, at the Kawergosk refugee camp, the association launched its first photography-training workshop, addressing 10 girls and 10 boys, aged between 10 to 17.

It is all about learning how to look at things, how to use the camera given to each of the children, how to tell one's life, one's dreams, one's sorrows. Day after day, year after year. Under the supervision of their trainers, who are also refugees trained by Reza, these young "photo reporters" work on projects like "Nature in the camp", "In the candlelight", "Family life", "Movement", "Shadow and light". The workshop has not stopped after one year. It is still continuing: through distance training sessions allowed by the new technologies, through the selection of photographs among thousands captured by the students in order to train their photographic eye, through one-day trips outside the camp organised as short "reportage", and the implementation of English courses, the link with Reza and the association remains strong. In addition, Reza visits the camp on a regular basis, in order to meet students, to measure their progress, and understand their needs, in terms of books, materials, computers... And in order to encourage them.

"For those who are fleeing and then, once in exile, there is nothing more important for them but to reclaim their own lives by telling their stories and sharing them with the rest of the world."

One day, we organised an event in the camp and invited the students' relatives. Officially, each student of the workshop received the association "press card". A mother who had lost many things in her life came and told Reza:

"You have brought our children's smiles back."

This might be the greatest achievement of this commitment. There are so many refugee camps, so many lives and futures darkened by wars. The association expanded its project.

In 2015, a second training workshop was launched in Kabarto and, in 2016, a third one was launched in Arbat. We organised these workshops the same way we did at Kawergosk: a camera given to each student, a coordinator, first sessions conducted by Reza, projections, documentaries and books focusing on photography, given to the students as educational tools to share and use against the idleness of the camp.

"We aim at helping these passive victims to become actors of their own destinies by regaining their dignity." Since this day of December 2013, more than 60 children have been trained to the language of image.

**SICILY** From one camp to another, from one country to the next to the other, young refugees coming from different regions, who have faced countless dangers, found themselves in Palermo. In this exile, they are often alone, haunted by fear, by the long journey fraught with dangers during which they have sometimes lost their relatives. As a first step, the association began to distribute cameras, a tool of visual expression. A photography-training workshop was launched in 2017.

**MALI** ■ In December 2016, in Bamako, we met young children who are refugees in their own countries. Living between two lives, two waters, two exiles, two temporary reception centers, their lives seem to be suspended. A group gathering children from different social backgrounds - to ensure the social parity - took part, for 15 days, in a training session conducted by Reza and his collaborator. They were all given a camera which they also used to photograph the public and official opening of the exhibition of their work.

*"Through this recognition, the children found something essential for the construction of their identity: the self-esteem they had lost."*

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## YOUTHS LIVING IN DIFFICULT NEIGHBOURHOODS URBAN VOICES

«**URBAN VOICES**» is a project based on workshops dedicated to children living in sensitive urban areas. The goal is to accompany them in a journey to discover the photographic tool that enables them to become tellers of their own stories, their own lives and dreams.

**SICILY : LIBRINO** ■ Librino is a disadvantaged suburb of Catania. The inhabitants were forced to leave, because of the drug trade and violent - if not murderous - vendettas that take place there, on what seems like the agora of an ancient city. This is the result of a failed architectural, economical and sociological experiment of the 1960's. Conceived as the ideal neighbourhood, Librino became a dormitory town in bad shape.

Its 80,000 inhabitants are the passive witnesses and victims of this enclaving and precarious situation.

On this silent agora where weeds grow between paving stones, children used to play before their mother's fear forbade these innocent games. The games were replaced by the TV. In some towers, no one, not even a policeman dares to enter. In Librino, the fathers usually live in prison. The children see their fathers growing old through the bars of the prison visiting room. Some follow their fathers' example. Others strive to find another road. There, the school is the only light of knowledge at the end of a dark and hopeless tunnel.

Art is a window open on the dream. Thus we dared to think that photography could lead to social changes. From 2009 to 2011, 100 youths were trained to the language of image. The sessions were conducted either by Reza or by trainers.

Through their photographic testimonies, they drew new perspectives for their future.

**TOULOUSE : REYNERIE, MIRAIL AND BELLEFONTAINE** ■ On an autumnal day of 2013, during the “month of image”, the works of 38 youths coming from neighbourhoods said to be “forbidden zones” were displayed along with works made by professional photographers, in the city centre of Toulouse.

Their exhibition focused on the topic “My land, my family”. Their photographs were the testimonies of the reality they were living in. It contributed to share and change their images of stigmatised youths living in difficult neighbourhoods.

*“Usually, when you heard of our neighbourhood, it is because some cars have been burnt. This time, we show the life we wanted to show. And here also, life is beautiful.”*

One could get the pride in the eyes of these youths and their relatives’. This exhibition was displayed six months after the launch a photography training workshop, by Reza who supervised the project, helped with 4 local trainers and supported by Clément Poitrenaud.

**FRANCE : 7 CITIES** ■ From 2013 to 2014, 10 youths living in the Ravine Blanche neighbourhood on Saint Pierre (Reunion Island), and 127 dropouts and youths working as volunteers (civic service) in Dijon, Metz, Bondy, Saint-Ouen, Nantes, Châtellerauld were trained to photography. The aim was to arouse interest and passion and help them develop a sense of resiliency. The volunteers (civic service) took part in a training of several months and in a photo competition. Their works were exhibited; some even had their work published in the media. For some of them, who became visual witnesses, this experience was a calling.

### **ARGENTINE : BUENOS AIRES**

Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, has more than 2.8 million inhabitants. About 10% of them live in about fifty shantytowns, «villas miserias» as the Argentinians say. Insalubrity, and insecurity are the daily life of their inhabitants.

**PROGRAM BARRIO 31** ■ A cooperation between France and Argentina, and a socio-cultural integration program through the implementation of workshops, offered by Reza Visual Academy. The association proposes a training in photography for 30 young people residing in Barrio 31, Buenos Aires, between 2018 and 2019. These courses will be materialized by an exhibition organized in a cultural centre of the city.

**EJERCITO DE LOS ANDES AND VILLA 21-24** ■ In these poor neighborhoods, young people have awakened to the art of photography. For several months, young people are trained in the language of the image. They discover, through the lens, the opportunity to express themselves, to be an actor of their world.



“**RURAL VOICES**” is a project of photography workshops, dedicated to children living in rural and remote areas. This project began with the launch of a first visual training implemented in Morocco in 2014.

**MOROCCO** ■ It is in the valley of Aït Bougmez, as known as Valley of Happiness, in the centre of the Moroccan High Atlas Mountains, where the “Rencontres Photographiques Berbères” program took place in September 2014.

Young teenagers, girls and boys, live in Tabent’s boarding school. Their village of origin is too far for them to travel the daily distance; and even weekly. So they live together, away from their families. During a ten-day training, Reza taught them the basics of a the language of image. From witnesses, thanks to the photographic tool, they become visual storytellers of their environment, their dreams and their lives.

This new perspective allows them to rediscover their culture, to transmit it and to imagine a little beyond the borders of their world. Their horizon no longer stops at the tops of the Atlas Mountains.

**NEW-ZEALAND, AFGHANISTAN** ■ In 2015, in New-Zealand, a local association organized a photography workshop addressing young Maoris.

In 2016, in Afghanistan, someone conceived a photography workshop project addressing the Afghan youths. They wanted to give them the basics of the language of image and of story-telling. To help them launch these workshops, Reza Visual Academy gave their digital cameras.

Textes par Rachel Deghati

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PEDAGOGICAL PROJECT



Librino, an underprivileged suburb of Catania, Sicily, is the result of a failed architectural, economical and sociological experiment of the 1960's. Approximately 80,000 people now live in this satellite city, characterized by instability, remoteness, and a lack of access to education and culture.

- 
- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Parteners :    | • Antonio Presti, Fondation Fiumara d'Arte                           |
| Place :        | • Librino, Sicily  |
| Duration :     | • 2009 - Today   |
| Beneiciaries : | • 100 youths (male-female parity) from the Campanella-Strurzo school |
| Trainers :     | • 40 local photographers trained, among whom 10 regular trainers     |
| Training :     | • 5-day training sessions scheduled on a regular basis               |
| Event :        | • Upcoming exhibition in 2017-2018                                   |









Reza invited Toulouse locals to discover the exhibition “War + Peace”, a compilation of iconic images taken throughout his trips around the world and launched a photography training workshop. Considered a sensitive urban area, Reynerie locals and especially the youth, experience difficulty adapting in professional settings.

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Parteners :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Varenne Foundation, the city of Toulouse, and Webistan photo agency; Sponsorship of Banque Populaire Occitane Foundation; Sponsorship of National Geographic Channel, Tisséo, Carsat, ERDE, Toulouse Ouest Partenaires association; Under Clément Poitrenaud’s patronage.</li></ul>
Place :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reynerie Mirail and Bellefontaine districts (Toulouse)</li></ul>
Duration :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 months, 2013</li></ul>
Beneiciaries :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 38 youths (male-female parity)</li></ul>
Training :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5-day sessions scheduled on a regular basis</li></ul>
Event :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exhibition “Ma terre, ma famille”, salle des illustres, Toulouse city hall</li></ul>



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## 6 CITIES, FRANCE



Through the Booster project, launched in partnership with « Unis-Cites », Reza Visual Academy covered and conducted trainings to the language of image in six French cities. The youths were trained under the supervision of Florence At, the itinerant pedagogical coordinator, Reza, and a local trainer in each city. This training project is aimed at helping minors who have dropped out of high school, or young adults seeking to reintegrate the educational or professional system.

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|----------------|---|
| Parteners :    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RVA's own funds, Webistan Photo Agency</li><li>Logistic partnership (premises) with the association Unis-Cité</li></ul> |
| Place :        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seine- Saint-Denis, Metz, Châtellerault, Nantes, Toulouse, Dijon, France</li></ul>                                      |
| Duration :     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 months, 2013 and 2014</li></ul>   |
| Beneiciaries : | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 127 youths (67 adults et 60 minors)</li></ul>   |
| Trainers :     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 training sessions per city by Reza</li><li>6 trainers + 1 pedagogical coordinator</li></ul>                           |
| Training :     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5-day sessions scheduled on a regular basis</li></ul>   |
| Event :        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exhibitions or projections</li></ul>  |





# AIT BOUGMEZ VALLEY, MOROCCO



Reza Visual Academy was part of the Rencontres Photographiques Berbères program, working with students from the Tabant boarding school. Once given cameras, Reza taught them the basics of a new language: the language of image.

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Parteners :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rencontres photographiques berbères, Webistan Photo Agency, RVA's own funds</li></ul>
Place :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ait Bougmez valley, Atlas Mountains, Morocco</li></ul>
Duration :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 days, 2014</li></ul>
Beneiciaries :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 youths (male-female parity)</li></ul>
Trainers :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reza</li></ul>
Training :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intensive session</li></ul>
Event :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Closing conference</li></ul>



Transmitting and witnessing are at the core of Reza Visual Academy's projects. On Reunion Island, Reza conducted a workshop during which the youths discovered the tools of photography that enabled them to become tellers of their own stories.

**Parteners :** • La Ravine Blanche association, Webistan Photo Agency

**Place :** • Saint Pierre

**Duration :** • 10 days, 2014

**Beneiciaries :** • 10 youths (male-female parity)

**Trainers :** • Reza

**Training :** • Intensive session

**Event :** • Closing conference



In December 2013, on an assignment for the Franco-German channel Arte working on a reportage on the word “Refugee”, Reza decided to launch a long-term training for the Syrian refugee children.

These children have now become the camp’s reporters.

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Parteners :	• Varenne foundation, Sakura fund, Webistan Photo agency
Place :	• Iraqi Kurdistan
Duration :	• 2013 - Today
Beneiciaries :	• 20 youths (male-female parity)
Trainers :	• 1 local trainer-photographer
Training :	• Weekly sessions (with English courses)
Event :	• Diploma ceremony (the students received their “camp reporter certificate”)







# KABARTO REFUGEE CAMP, IRAQI KURDISTAN



Being an ethnic and religious group practicing Yazidism, the Yazidis are persecuted by the Islamic State. Reza met a Yazidi community living in a refugee camp in Iraqi Kurdistan and decided to give them the tools to become the witness of their own stories, through photography.

**Parteners :** • Varenne Foundation, Sakura fund, Webistan Photo Agency

**Place :** • Iraqi Kurdistan

**Duration :** • 2015 - 2017

**Beneiciaries :** • 19 youths (male-female parity)

**Trainers :** • 1 local trainer-photographer

**Training :** • Weekly sessions (with English courses)

**Event :** • Photo competition





Reza Visual Academy launched a third photography-training workshop in a refugee camp near Arbat. Addressing refugee children and IDP children, it aims at giving them the tools to express themselves and share their stories with the world.

- 
- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Parteners :    | • Varenne Foundation, Sakura fund, Webistan Photo Agency |
| Place :        | • Iraqi Kurdistan  |
| Duration :     | • 2016 - Today   |
| Beneiciaries : | • 16 youths (male-female parity)                         |
| Trainers :     | • 1 local trainer-photographer                           |
| Training :     | • Weekly sessions (with English courses)                 |
| Event :        | • Photo competition                                      |







# BAMAKO, MALI



In Mali, a great number of orphans and IDP children live in deep poverty. Through the training workshop, some of them, who had lost their childish innocence, developed a sense of resiliency while photographing their daily life.

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- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Parteners :    | • Equations Nomades, UNESCO, French Institut of Bamako, Webistan Photo Agency (skill-based sponsorship), RVA' own funds |
| Place :        | • « Maison des enfants », Bamako, Mali  |
| Duration :     | • 2016 (Dec.) - Today   |
| Beneiciaries : | • 19 youths (among whom IDP children) (male-female parity)  |
| Trainers :     | • Reza & a professional photographer-trainer  |
| Training :     | • Intensive session with Reza (1 week)<br>Upcoming sessions scheduled on a regular basis                                |
| Event :        | • Exhibition in January 2017  |







The Native Americans were the first people to settle in America, before European colonization. They are still living in Northern America, especially in reservations where the level of education and cultural transmission is weak. This is a stumbling block to the harmonious development of the communities.

**Parteners :** • Private sponsorship, Webistan Photo Agency  
IAIA (Institute of American Indian Arts)

**Place :** • Indian reservation near Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Duration :** • 2017

**Beneiciaries :** • Around 40 youths (male-female parity)

**Trainers :** • Reza (for the launching session)

**Training :** • Upcoming 10-day intensive sessions

**Event :** • Conference at IAIA





In Argentina, the « villas » are sensitive urban areas characterized by high vulnerability and low access to education. Both the neighborhoods of Ejercito de los Andes, also known as « Fuerte Apache » and Villa 21-24 are seen as dangerous zones. Many fears and prejudices towards the inhabitants of those neighborhoods prevail today, especially towards the youths. Reza Visual Academy has trained 46 of them to the use of photography as a tool of storytelling and emancipation.

- 
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|----------------|--|
| Parteners :    | • BionalSur and UNTREF University  |
| Place :        | • Villa 21-24, Ejercito de los Andes, Buenos Aires, Argentina  |
| Duration :     | • 2017   |
| Beneiciaries : | • 46 youths (31 girls and 15 boys, aged 11 to 20)  |
| Trainers :     | • 6 local trainer-photographers  |
| Training :     | • Weekly sessions during 5 months  |
| Event :        | • Exhibition from September to December 2017 in Plaza San Martin, within BionalSur, the biggest Contemporary Art Biennale that ever took place in South America. |







Program Barrio 31 is a cooperation between France and Argentina, and a socio-cultural integration program through the implementation of workshops offered by Reza Visual Academy. The association proposes a training in photography for 30 young people residing in Barrio 31, Buenos Aires, between 2018 and 2019. These courses will be materialized by an exhibition organized in a cultural center of the city.

- 
- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Parteners :</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webistan and the French Institute of Argentina (as part of a partnership between the French Embassy in Argentina and VEOLIA)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Place :</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barrio 31, Buenos Aires, Argentina</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Duration :</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018-2019, 9 months (in progress)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Beneiciaries :</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 young people (parity)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Trainers :</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reza and 4 professional photographers</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Training :</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three training sessions by Reza and workshops over 9months by the local trainers</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Event :</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhibition in a cultural center of the city, under artistic direction of photographer Reza.</li> </ul>                                  |





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# IZMIR - ISTANBUL - GAZIANTEP, TURKEY

## 2018 - 2019



«Youth Lens» program was launched in 2018 by Unicef in Turkey with the aim to train 60 young Syrian refugees and Turks from Izmir, Gaziantep, and Istanbul to learn the language of the image. For four months, these young boys and girls who were between 11 to 18 years old, were introduced to image storytelling by the photographer Reza and their local trainers. In three urban areas of Turkey, each workshop was animated by two initial interventions provided by Reza and continued under the supervision of local trainers. As part of this training, students learned the tools of photography and became familiar with visual narration to tell their realities and dreams through pictures. They shared different aspects of their lives by following specific themes to explore; they seized their destinies and project themselves into their futures. Young Syrian refugees and Turks, gathered around a common project, learning to share and live together, thus contributing to the social cohesion of their environment. In light of the news, it is fundamental to give resonance to these actions which help towards building bridges.

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**Parteners :** • Webistan and Unicef Turkey (as part of a partnership with the European Commission and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Turkey)

**Place :** • Three urban areas of Turkey, in Izmir, Gaziantep, Istanbul

**Duration :** • 2018, 4 months

**Beneiciaries :** • 60 young Syrian refugees and Turks (parity) from 11 to 18

**Trainers :** • Reza and 6 local trainers

**Training :** • Training sessions by Reza and workshops over 4 months by the local trainers

**Event :** • Exhibition at the Economic, Social and Environmental Council in Paris - Exhibition à the Unicef House in New-York







# DONATION OF EQUIPMENT



Through donations of photographic equipment, Reza Visual Academy also supports partners and local communities to launch and conduct photography-training workshops, especially abroad.

## NEW-ZEALAND

- Donation of 2 Nikon Coolpix L330 cameras
- 12 Nikon Coolpix L330 cameras
- 12 Maori children
- Funding: Webistan Photo Agency
- Manaia View School (training)

## AFGHANISTAN

- Training by filmmaker Barmak Akram, in partnership with AFD
- Funding: Webistan Photo Agency

## SICILY(PALERMO)

- Donation of 15 digital cameras
- Upcoming training workshop addressing refugees in Palermo (2017)



- BOOSTER 2**
- 120 loaned including 5 donated
  - Funds: Agence Webistan

- MAROC (VALLÉE AIT BOUGMEZ)**
- Donations of 11 cameras
  - Funds: Agence Webistan

- KURDISTAN IRAKIEN  
KAWERGOSK  
KABARTO  
BARIKA**
- 60 cameras
  - Funds: Agence Webistan

- MALI (BAMAKO)**
- 20 cameras given
  - Funds: Agence Webistan

- ARGENTINE (BUENOS AIRES)**
- 80 cameras given
  - Funds: UNTREF and Institut Français in Argentina





EXHIBITIONS





As a tribute to our human family, Reza proposed in summer 2015 a giant photographic fresco on the banks of the Seine river, between the Léopold-Sédar-Senghor bridge and the Pont Royal. The exhibition *Dream of Humanity* displayed the photographs made by the Syrian refugee children living in Kawergosk refugee camp and invited the spectator to think about our values such as dialogue, dignity and tolerance.

**Topic :** • “A dream of Humanity”

**Place :** • Seine River banks, in front of Orsay Museum

**Prints :** • 354 meter-long fresco

**Partners :** • HIPA foundation and UNHCR

**Duration :** • 3 months

**Event :** • Public exhibition



On the occasion of a conference on the global refugee crisis, Syracuse University invited Reza to present his Exile Voices project. Photographs made by the camp reporters were displayed at the university.

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Topic :	• « Exile Voices »
Place :	• Syracuse University
Prints :	• 10
Partners :	• Syracuse University, RVA' own funds
Duration :	• 3 weeks
Event :	• Public exhibition





The work of the refugee children living in Kawergosk and Kabarto refugee camps has been displayed in Duhok University, on the occasion of a public exhibition. The refugee children and their trainers took part in the exhibition opening, in the presence of official representatives and academics.

Topic : • « Exile Voices »

Place : • Duhok university

Prints : • 40

Partners : • UNDP

Duration : • 2 days

Event : • Public exhibition



Exceptionally, an exhibition made in partnership with the UNDP and displaying photographs of the refugee children living in Kawergosk, Kabarto and Barika camps took place at the European Commission headquarters. Reza designed the exhibition's exclusive scenography, on a voluntary basis.

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Topic :	• « Exile Voices »
Place :	• European Commission headquarters, Brussels
Prints :	• 40
Partners :	• UNDP
Duration :	• 10 days
Event :	• Public exhibition





BienalSur is the biggest Contemporary Art Biennale that ever took place in South America. In the framework of this project, an exhibition of the children's photographs alongside the workshop "Urban Voices" of Reza Visual Academy was showcased at the heart of the Argentine capital, from September to December 2017 in Plaza San Martin.

Topic : • « Urban Voices »

Place : • San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Prints : • 46

Partners : • BienalSur and UNTREF University

Duration : • September - Decembre 2017

Event : • Public exhibition



From May 20 to 24, 2019, 60 Turkish and Syrian young refugees exhibited their work at the Economic, Social and Environmental Council. In 2019 - which marked the 30th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child - 60 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 from Turkey and Syria have learned and worked using the art of photography under the guidance of Reza. This training has sought to teach these budding photographers the language of the image; to help them tell, through photos, their dreams and realities.

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**Topic :** • « Rêves d'Avenir »

**Place :** • Economic, Social and Environmental Council, Paris

**Prints :** • 56

**Partners :** • Webistan and Unicef Turkey (as part of a partnership with the European Commission and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Turkey)

**Duration :** • 5 days

**Event :**





The exhibition «Dreams of the Future» which was organized at the Unicef House in New-York, is the culmination of the Youth Lens project launched in 2018, under the aegis of Unicef in Turkey, and the photographer Reza, who has conducted photography training in the suburbs of Izmir, Gaziantep, and Istanbul with local young photographers.

- 
- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Topic :    | • « Dreams of the Future »  |
| Place :    | • The Unicef House in New-York  |
| Prints :   | • 56  |
| Partners : | • Webistan and Unicef Turkey (as part of a partnership with the European Commission and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Turkey) |
| Event :    | • Private exhibition  |

# FRENCH EMBASSY OF BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



The Reza Visual Academy, thanks to the invitation of the French Institute of Argentina, and in the framework of the collaboration of the latter with the company VEOLIA Argentina, implemented training in photography between 2018 and 2019. These workshops took place under the gaze of the photojournalist REZA, assisted by four local trainers. maybe good to bring: at the end of the training, a selection of their works was exhibited on the grids of the French Embassy in Buenos Aires under the name of "Amor por el Barrio" Photographs of 30 young Argentines trained in Barrio 31 by the Image of the language by Reza and the Local trainers were exhibited under the aegis of the French Institute and its cooperation with Veolia.

**Topic :** • « Amor por el Barrio »

**Place :** • French Embassy of Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Prints :** • 44

**Partners :** • Webistan and the French Institute of Argentina (as part of a partnership between the French Embassy in Argentina and VEOLIA)

**Duration :** • From the 30th of Mai

**Event :** • Public exhibition





The diffusion of the works made by the children is critical to us. Therefore, we do not miss any occasion to display them during festivals or in schools and universities. These exhibitions are also an opportunity for Reza to give a conference focusing on the transmission of visual education as a factor of social changes in vulnerable communities.

TedX World Bank Washington	October 2013
Tedx HEC Paris	October 2014
Arte Strasbourg	April 2016
Sciences Po Lille	18 - 22 April 2016
Toulouse Business School	22 - 30 April 2016
Sciences Po Paris	26 - 29 April 2016
Phot'Aubrac	September 2016
UNESCO	December 2016
French Institute, Bamako	December 2016 - January 2017
World Bank Washington	September 2017
Centre de Formation des Journalistes Paris	June - October 2017
Saint Anne Paris Hospital	October 2017
Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe	November 2017
Stanford University, United States	March 2018
Malta Arts Festival	April 2018
Château Le Bec	June 2018
Global Education 7	December 2018





AUDIO-VISUAL ACHIEVEMENTS



In the newly- settled camp of Kawergosk, Reza launched an itinerant workshop, walking along the rows of tents. The team of “Oeil pour oeil” TV program followed him on the field.

Channel : • Arte Reportages

Broadcast : • October 18, 2014

Audience : • French and german

Link : • <http://info.arte.tv/fr/oeil-de-reza-photographe>





Mid- October 2014, special correspondents for Arte Reportages met Reza and the Syrian refugee children who had taken part in the training workshop for two years. An opportunity for all to measure the progress made by the children since the launch of the workshop.

---

**Channel :** • Arte Reportages

**Broadcast :** • November 18, 2015

**Audience :** • French & German

**Link :** • <http://www.arte.tv/sites/story/reportage/irak-kawergoskrefugies-les-reporters-du-camp/>



While the refugee crisis is at the core of all European public debates, Ushuaïa TV went to meet refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan. During this investigation in the Middle-East and in Africa, they met Reza who helps refugee children love their lives despite their exile.

Channel : • Ushuaïa Tv

Broadcast : • 2015

Audience : • French

Link : • <http://www.ushuaiatv.fr/actualit%C3%A9s/climat-guerres-migrations-les-liaisons-dangereuses>





Little documentary about the exhibition «Exiles Voices» at the heart of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

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Channel : • Youtube

Broadcast : • November 25, 2016

Audience : • English

Link : • <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCvgsTY0lLs>



Broadcast on the channel Telenoche - Channel 13, report on the project «Urban Voices» in Argentina, concretized by an exhibition on the San Martin Square in Buenos Aires.

- 
- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Channel :   | • Telenoche, Canal 13   |
| Broadcast : | • September 2017  |
| Audience :  | • Spanish   |
| Link :      | • <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vd9M0Kg162E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vd9M0Kg162E</a> |





Report on the «Urban Voices» project in Argentina, finalized by an exhibition on San Martin Square in Buenos Aires.

- 
- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Channel :   | • Produced by Ariel Riveiro Diaz, directed by UNTREF Media  |
| Broadcast : | • September 27, 2017  |
| Audience :  | • Spanish, English  |
| Link :      | • <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W55u9GI5lho&amp;t=28s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W55u9GI5lho&amp;t=28s</a> |



Report on Reza's visit to the Malta Arts International Festival, where he exhibits his work as well as the photographs of two Maltese friends, Charles Mifsud and Darrin Zammit Lupi.

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Channel : • TVM Malta

Broadcast : • June 29, 2018

Audience : • Maltese

Link : • <https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/watch-photo-journalist-taught-refugee-children-in-camps-to-give-them-a-voice/>





Interview of Reza, from France 24 stage, presenting the extent of his humanitarian commitments.

Channel : • France 24

Broadcast : • October 25, 2018

Audience : • English

Link : • <https://www.france24.com/en/20180925-perspective-reza-photojournalist-photography-afghanistan-war-syria-children-refugees>

# PRESS COVERAGE

Transmitting the universal language of image – photography – to youths coming from vulnerable communities arouses great interest among the media.

All events and initiatives have been covered by journalists and the association endeavours to present the project and highlight its impact.

Since 2009, the projects have gained a great visibility thanks to around 400 press publications, radio interviews, TV interviews and reportages, and cyberpress. That way, we help the youths to share their stories with the world. This is our duty.



C'est cela qu'ils ont dans les yeux, la nostalgie de la vie arrachée. Shaven finit par sourire en s'essuyant les larmes. On la recommande à la vie. On fait le vœu, indoloreusement, qu'elle ait la force de s'inventer une autre vie. Avec son cœur de jeune fille de dix-neuf ans. Et tous ceux qui sont là, autour d'eux, avec des nouveau-nés dans les bras, qu'ils aient la force de construire autre chose que ce qu'ils avaient initialement prévu, pour que leur regard ne porte pas la lumière de la défaite mais quelque chose de vif, d'irrésistible, comme la volonté humaine. Ils l'ont déjà, si souvent, dans le regard, cette lueur.

C'est elle qui me donne envie parfois de m'incliner devant eux. Car malgré le malheur qui les serre dans son poing, ils sont beaux et c'est leur beauté que j'emminerai avec moi, de retour en France, leur beauté, noble, et intacte, comme le sourire de Shaven.

Laurent Gaudi

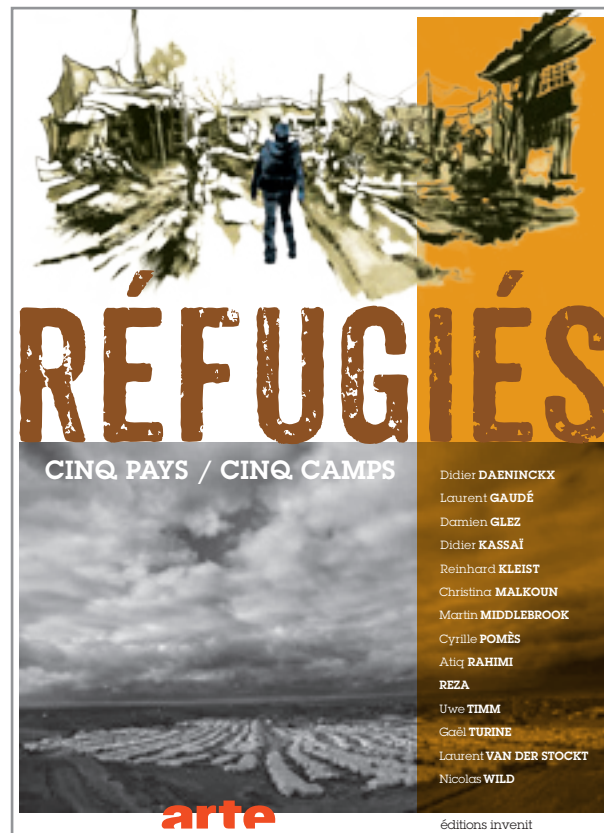






*Seul le Vent* brings together the photos of the students of Kawergosk, the poems of the writer Laurent Gaudé, the cartoons of the graphic artist Reinhard Kleist, and Reza's photos of refugee camps.

- 
- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Editor :       | • Independent, 2016                          |
| Auteurs :      | • Reza, Laurent Gaudé, and all               |
| Partner :      | • French Institute of Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan |
| Distribution : | • Global                                     |



The book is the product of collaboration between filmmakers, writers, photographers and artists covering refugee camps across the globe for the “Refugee project”. The book was made by a private partner, on an initiative of Reza.

- 
- Editor :** • Invenit / Arte, 2016
- Autors :** • Reza, Laurent Gaudé, and all
- Partner :** • Arte Reportages
- Distribution :** • France, Germany



Maptia is a collaborative photography platform offering visual reportages with strong editorial content. It gathers an international community of story-tellers.

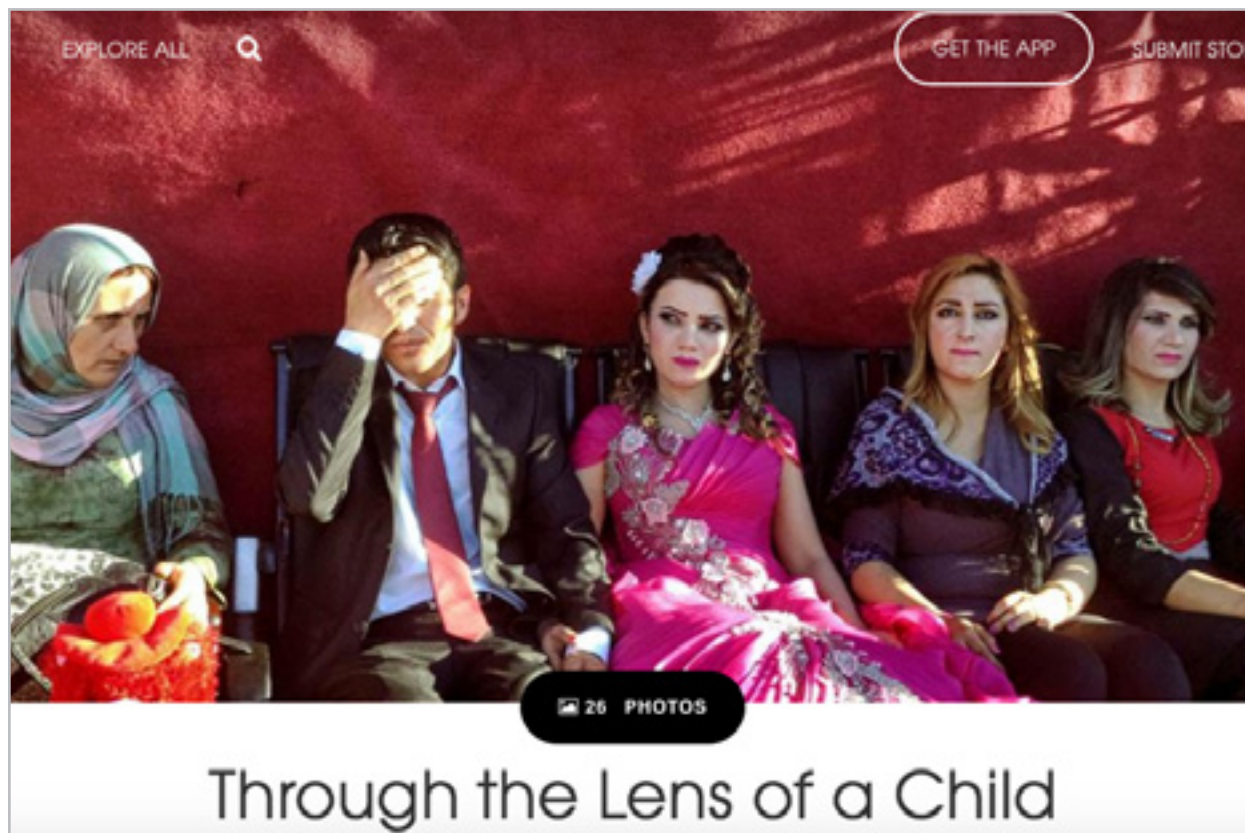
Platform : • Maptia

Diffusion : • Since 2015

Audience : • Global

Link : • <https://maptia.com/reza/stories/exile-voices>





ViewFind benefits from a large network of more than 3,000 journalists around the world. It aims at building bridges by telling stories of ordinary people who make extraordinary things. Its audience is global.

- 
- Platform :** • Viewfind
- Diffusion :** • 2015
- Audience :** • International
- Link :** • <https://viewfind.com/story/reza>

## NEW YORK TIMES



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## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

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# SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY NETWORKS



**20 AOÛT 2015**  
Presse digitale  
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**Socialdocumentary.net**

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**SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN**  
VISUAL STORY TELLERS OF THEIR OWN DESTINY

**Photographer: REZA**

## PARIS MATCH



**A QUELQUES KILOMÈTRES, DAECH ÉGORGE MAIS CES PETITS SYRIENS FONT JAILLIR L'HUMOUR ET LA BEAUTÉ AVEC L'INSOLENCE D'UN RIMBAUD**

PAR ALFRED DE MONTESQUIEU

**A** la petite mort, ils sont jeunes enfants. À l'adolescence, ils sont en fuite. Reza doit donner une image de la Syrie. Il a choisi la technique photographique, la plus efficace car elle permet de dire ce qu'il veut dire. Mais il a aussi choisi la technique du portrait, la plus efficace car elle permet de dire ce qu'il veut dire. Reza a choisi la technique du portrait, la plus efficace car elle permet de dire ce qu'il veut dire. Reza a choisi la technique du portrait, la plus efficace car elle permet de dire ce qu'il veut dire.

**« Honnêtement, certaines de leurs photos, j'en suis jaloux », avoue Reza**

Il y a Reza, 33 ans, qui a décidé de ne prendre que des photos qu'il trouve un peu étranges. Il a décidé de ne prendre que des photos qu'il trouve un peu étranges. Il a décidé de ne prendre que des photos qu'il trouve un peu étranges.

**Reza Visual Academy**

**Les Ateliers Reza**



## FROZEN SHOES OF MAYA



She's standing there, in front of the tent. Her patience and silent presence are impressive. She has heard the news. I've noticed her on the second day of the photography course. She was the first to arrive. She stands there, observing and listening, keeping her distance from the small group of ten young students. For two days, Maya Rostam, a 12-year-old girl, won't leave us. It is now the end of the day, the cold night is falling on the camp and everyone is going back to their tent, a semblance of a home where they are huddled together.

At the end of the second day, I go to meet her, asking her about her presence, her patience. She tells me about the sounds of war, the long, grueling road of exile, the sun that beats down upon the survivors and the fatigue of the flight.

And then, the life in the camp, the rows of tents, and also moments of quiet when the family dare to hope for a new life. Time goes by, day after day, month after month. Every day, an immense feeling of boredom invades her, a feeling of suffocating while surviving rather than living.

I ask her why she is here and her answer reminds me of the reasons why I have started photography when I was a child in Tabriz: “I want to learn photography because I believe that, thanks to it, everybody will be able to see what I feel and how we live.”

So I went to buy more cameras in order to allow more students in the course, since, like Maya, many children are following us with the same enthusiasm. By the evening, she leaves with a camera. Her mission? To photograph at night. I add that I want to see these photos and, if they are good, then she would join the course.

Maya holds the camera tight as if it were a treasure and runs into the night, in the middle of the tents, before we even have the time to ask her more about herself.

But the next morning, Maya is not there. I feel concerned and inquire about her absence, but no one knows which tent is hers. But I am confident.

The course has started when Maya appears. She comes towards us timidly. She is terribly embarrassed.

I ask her why she is late. She remains silent and lowers her head. The other students are talking to me, but I repeat the question: “Why are you late?” Without a word, she holds her camera out to me and shows me this picture. She adds in an almost inaudible voice: “My shoes were frozen; I had to wait to put them on.” I have never felt so deeply touched by the symbolic power of an image.

Today, Maya Rostam, a 12-year-old Syrian refugee in the Kawergosk refugee camp in Iraq, is one of our best students. She has become the visual storyteller of her own story.

## THEY SUPPORT US

Faithful partner since the creation of the Reza Visual Academy



They accompanied us on some projects...







Les Ateliers Reza



Reza Photojournalist



@REZApotography



rezavisualacademy\_ateliersreza

<https://rezavisual.academy.org>

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