

# BEIRUT by Serge Najjar

Texts: Ferrante, Ferranti, Jean-Luc Monterosso, Serge Najjar



Serge Najjar writes with lines and plays with shadows. [...] For me, some images evoke the utopia of the architects of the Enlightenment era, who had dreamt of them but never achieved them. Had they been photographers, they would have been compelled to compose with reality. Receptive to the variations of Time, Serge has not drawn on a memory of Beirut, – no pictures of “old stones” – but homed in on the realities of a changing city.

[...] There was the Beirut of childhood dreams inside bomb shelters, then the city he fled due to the fighting, then finally the building sites of reconstruction. The discovery of his city would go on to establish his need to write with the light

and to triumph over darkness.

In his animated images, a fraction of a second signifies timelessness, and the image can no longer be conceived of without its author, a fleeting shadow or incarnate presence. Serge calls on us to follow him in these architectures of light, and to pass through the mirror of appearances.

The history of Beirut calls for constant resurrection. The Beirut of Serge Najjar is the book of time dreamt, reinvented and then accomplished, the book of a captured time.

— Ferrante Ferranti

## PUBLICATION KEYWORDS

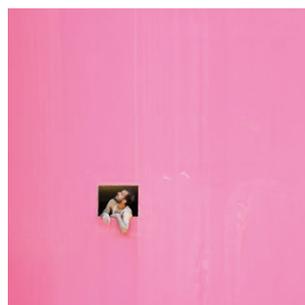
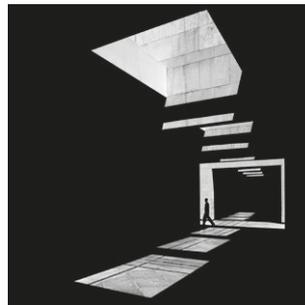
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Serge Najjar** is a Lebanese photographer born in Beyrouth Lebanon in 1973. He is a self-taught photographer and his work examines the interrelationship between modern and contemporary painting and photography. Serge Najjar proceeds like a goldsmith of cities as he shows their manifold geometric potential. He casts his photographer's eye on our interaction with materials and their correlation with the history of modern art and geometric abstraction. His approach may be instinctive, but his views allow us to reconsider our contemporary surroundings on a human scale. People's presence makes utopian, at times overwhelming architectural structures appear more human.

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**BEIRUT** by Serge Najjar

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**Serge Najjar reveals the beauty of Beirut through minimalist, geometric photography.**

— CREATIVE BOOM

**Serge manages to look beyond the mundanity of uniform cityscapes to capture extraordinary details of everyday life.**

— OPUMO

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**Serge Najjar: Lebanon's 21<sup>st</sup> century photographer**

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