



BELONGING BELONGING

Malika Abbas
Wendy Marijnissen

**15.12.23 -
30.12.23**

Opening Dec 15th
5pm - 8pm



VM ART GALLERY



VM Art Gallery is pleased to present *Belonging*, a two-person exhibition featuring the works of Malika Abbas and Wendy Marijnissen. This art show also includes educational public programming which will take place throughout the duration of the show. The exhibition will open on Friday, December 15th at 5pm and continue till December 30th 2023.

To belong
To be
To fit in...
Longing for a familiar place
Longing to be with those we love
Longing to come home to oneself

How we define 'belonging' varies broadly and entails a multitude of interpretations. When we feel like we belong somewhere it creates a sense of home, a feeling of comfort. It offers a place of refuge and security. For most of us, it's where nurturing and intimacy begin. It shapes our identity and informs who we become. 'Home' is not always a physical place: Sometimes it's a feeling, a memory, a person. Photography can play a pivotal role in helping us understand the world around us.

The images, and the act of image-making, become part of the dialogue within ourselves and with others. By observing and documenting, we are able to receive and process what unfolds before us.

After meeting each other for the first time in a panel discussion on documentary photography, we continued our conversations on the importance of storytelling within our work. It was during this time that we discovered the similarities in our work. Both of us draw inspiration from our past, our childhood and most importantly our families. We connected through the shared experience of having lost our mothers. The challenges of motherhood or having lost the ability to become a mom.

Even though we come from different cultural and social backgrounds which greatly determine how we live through loss, the actual feeling transcends all boundaries. Grief or missing someone is universal.

Through our conversations, we discovered an interconnectedness and decided to engage in a photographic dialogue with our thoughts, feelings, images, video and texts. Exploring what it means to belong, long, become or be.



WENDY MARIJNISSEN

Wendy Marijnissen, a freelance documentary photographer from Antwerp, Belgium, initiated her documentary work in Israel and Palestine. In 2009, Wendy expanded her focus to Pakistan, concentrating on the challenges faced by women during pregnancy and childbirth.

In 2018, Wendy published her book 'Always The Guest' and in 2020, she released the zine 'Come Out and Play'.

She is the founder of Bending The Frame vzw and a member of Women Photograph. Her work has appeared in Le Monde, National Geographic, Arte, De Standaard, De Morgen, Le Vif/L'Express, de Tijd, Guilt & Pleasure, Merip, Queries, The Jordan Times, Worldpulse, L'Express, Express Tribune, among others.



Wendy Marijnissen

Untitled 2015

Photograph Printed on Epson Fine Art Pearl 285g

Size: 8h x 8w in

Edition: 1/5

Price: 25000



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Wendy Marijnissen

Untitled, 2011

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Wendy Marijnissen

Untitled, 2011

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Wendy Marijnissen
Untitled, 2021

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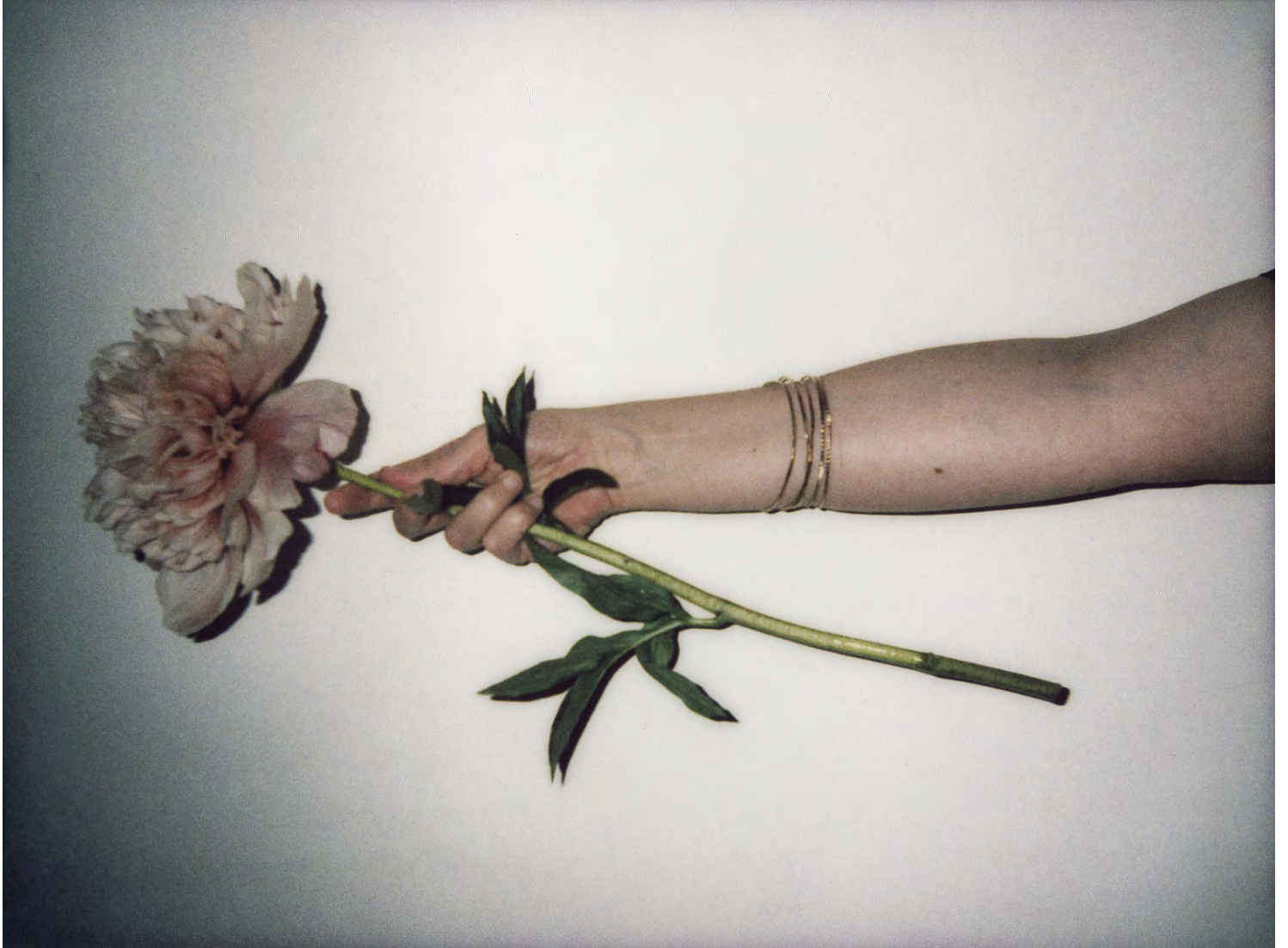
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MALIKA ABBAS

Malika Abbas is a visual artist from Karachi, Pakistan. Trained in miniature painting and photography, she uses various artistic mediums in her work. Malika's photography and miniature work, sometimes combined in pieces, is inspired by her personal life.

Malika was a photojournalist and archivist for the White Star PVT LTD agency, a subsidiary of the Dawn Media Group.

With extensive experience in curation, she is currently working as a curator at the AAN Museum and Art Space in Karachi. Her work has been exhibited widely and published in The First Post (India), Parsi Khabar, Herald Magazine and Dawn newspaper, among others.



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Malika Abbas

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Malika Abbas

Untitled, 2023

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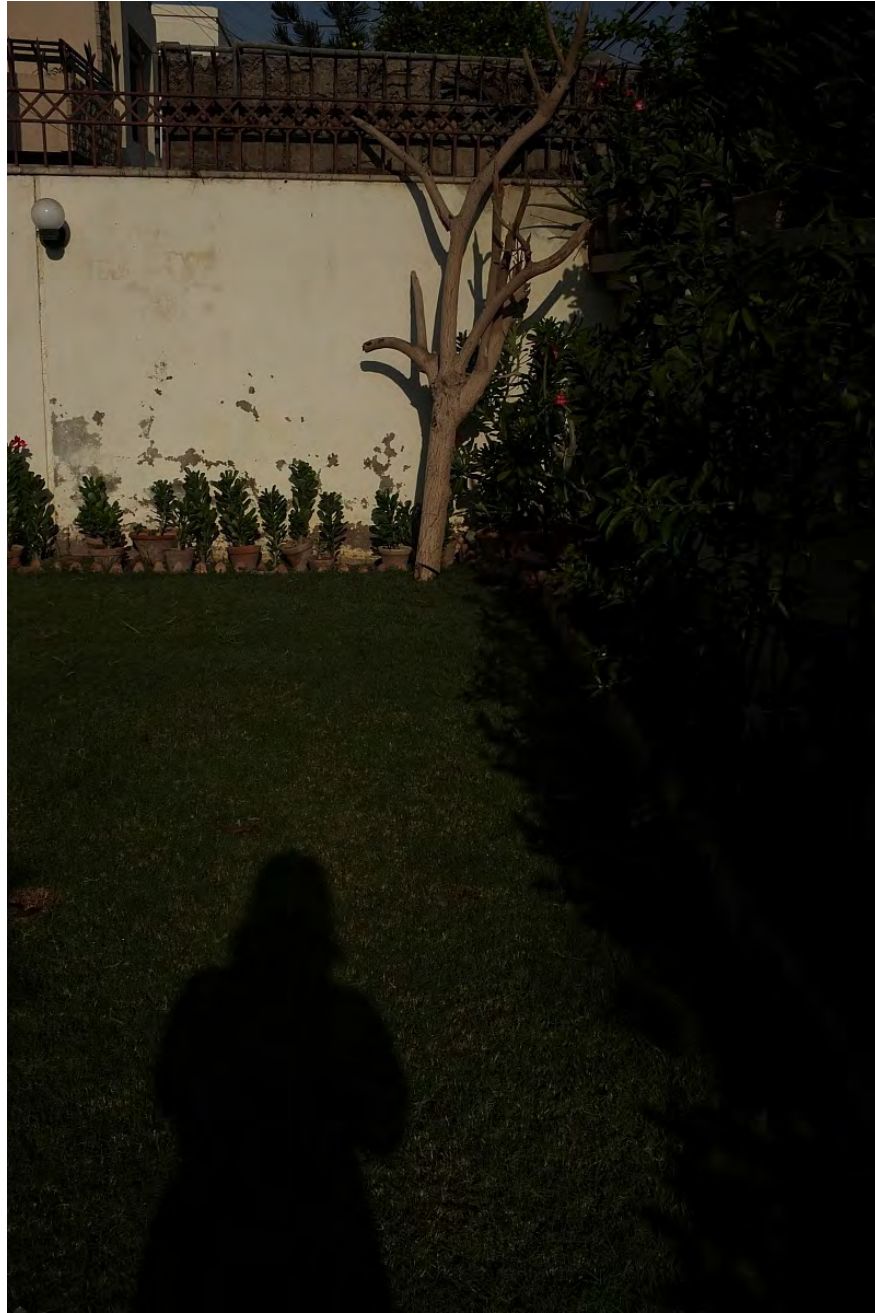
Malika Abbas

Untitled, 2012

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