

YOUTH LENS

on the Silk  Roads



**Best photos from the
International Silk Roads
Photo Contest**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



The Silk Roads
Dialogue, Diversity
and Development

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Foreword



Audrey Azoulay
Director General of UNESCO

The historic Silk Roads for millennia spanned much of the globe on land and at sea, bringing not only prosperity through the exchange of goods but also a rich exchange of knowledge, ideas, inventions, philosophy and art. It is so important for our shared human story, that large sections are already inscribed on the list of World Heritage.

In contrast to the mutual respect and peaceful coexistence of the Silk Roads, many of our contemporary societies are retrenching behind nationalistic rhetoric, which is often accompanied by an intolerance of other cultures. Yet knowledge of the past shows that all cultures and identities have been influence - indeed have been forged - by contact with a rich diversity of cultures.

Understanding this past is the key element to responding to the rise in intolerant sentiment and is the idea behind the **“Youth Lens on the Silk Roads”** international photo competition. This project, one of many during the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), aims to raise youth awareness of the importance of the Silk Roads’ shared legacy, as a basis for mutual understanding and respect in our globalised world.

Some 6,625 young men and women aged 14-25, from 100 countries from along the historic routes and beyond, captured through their unique lens what represents the shared cultural heritage of the Silk Roads. The current album presents 74 of the best of the photos submitted, accompanied by the photographers’ testimonies on their perception of this shared heritage.

It resonates fully with UNESCO’s mandate of nurturing a culture of peace. Since 1988, the Silk Roads has been a vector for promoting more harmonious and respectful societies. The Silk Roads Online Platform is a unique portal that gathers information on the living traditions, contemporary creation, sustainable tourism, museums and education that are inspired by the age-old ties of the Silk Roads. Our publications, research and atlases are a unique resource to aid comprehension and cooperation.

It is my sincere hope that the superb contribution of the **“Youth Lens on the Silk Roads”** international photo competition will serve as a catalyst to increase awareness about the Silk Roads common heritage and ensure they remain at the crossroads of dialogue, exchange and sustainable development for generations to come.

A handwritten signature of Audrey Azoulay in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Preface



Dr Ruohong Li
President of the China World
Peace Foundation

This beautiful photo album is the product of a truly fruitful partnership between UNESCO and the China World Peace Foundation (CWPF), both of whom accord a particular importance to the role of Youth.

It was with great pleasure that we supported UNESCO in organizing the **“Youth Lens on the Silk Roads”** International Photo Contest, in the hope that Youth, as powerful agents of change, will express and share their impressions of the Silk Roads. Depicting the Silk Roads’ common heritage in a creative and fresh way through the power of photography, the album offers a unique opportunity to acknowledge Youth’s voice and vision on this history.

The CWPF’s contribution reflects its commitment to Youth’s active involvement in global affairs, through its “Peace + 1” initiative. By increasing their awareness of and participation in the social and cultural life at national and international levels, young people are empowered to promote intercultural dialogue and sustainable peace and development. They are the key players in responding to the challenges of globalization today.

As a Peace Ambassador promoting the principles of international cooperation, public welfare, cultural diversity, and social responsibility, the Foundation is participating in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It mobilizes decision-makers, entrepreneurs, scholars and artists from different countries to build together peace in the minds of men and women, an action at the heart of UNESCO’s mandate.

As well as this collaboration around the Silk Roads project, the Foundation is highly honored to have contributed to the celebration, in 2014, of the 20th anniversary of UNESCO’s Slave Route project, which greatly contributed to a better understanding of the legacy of slavery and the common cultural heritage that was born out of this tragedy.

I am particularly impressed by the results of the photo contest, and very proud to have provided the necessary resources for its realization.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Dr. Ruohong Li, located at the bottom right of the page.

Traveling and Shaping the World

History teaches us that one can neither flourish nor survive without cultural interactions with others. By linking different regions throughout Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas, the Silk Roads have played a key role in connecting cultures beyond borders. These routes have been essential for the exchange of innovative ideas, knowledge, beliefs, and savoir-faire.

Travelers have explored the expansive Silk Roads region in order to partake in both intellectual and scientific exchanges that transpired throughout cities along these routes. Scientific knowledge relating to medicine, mathematics, and chemistry was shared amongst individuals along the Silk Roads. Moreover, arts, literature, and craftsmanship added to these exchanges, thus contributing to the advancement of humanity.

Spiritual enlightenment, as well as an understanding of religions, also provided inspiration for travel along these routes. For example, Buddhism spread from India to China, Japan, the Korean Peninsula, and Southeast Asia. In addition, Christianity, Islam and various other religious ideologies, including Zoroastrianism, Manicheism and Nestorianism, became more pervasive as they expanded from their point of origin throughout the Silk Roads pathways. Numerous historical sites, buildings, and monuments that still exist today, are a testament to the innovation and creativity of those who reaped the benefits of these Historical Routes.

That which is known in contemporary society as the Silk Roads, is in reality an expansive network of various trade routes, methods of exchange, and channels of communication. These also include the Spice Routes, the Incense Routes, and the Pilgrimage Routes, amongst others, that have connected vast regions, stretching from Asia to the Arabian Peninsula, and then through Africa and Europe for thousands of years. To a certain extent, today's globalized world is the result of the transnational fluidity of ideas, goods and technology along the Silk Roads.

UNESCO's Engagement for Promoting the Silk Roads Heritage

During the last thirty years, UNESCO has undertaken a multitude of initiatives in order to better understand this common heritage, and to highlight its significance for mutual understanding amongst diverse peoples. In 1988, the international organization launched a flagship project entitled, “**Integral Study of the Silk Roads, Roads of Dialogue**”, to encourage a more profound comprehension regarding intercultural dialogue and cultural interactions. Those inhabiting Eurasian and Far Eastern regions, as well as those living in the Middle East, Africa, and in close proximity to the Indian Ocean, all benefited from this innovative initiative. Completed in 2002, the project resulted in the creation of documentary evidence and audio-visual materials, which emphasized the dynamic processes involved in the building of a common heritage and shared values along the historical Silk Routes.

The United Nations proclamation for the ***International Decade for Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)***, for which UNESCO was designated a Lead Agency, offered a new opportunity to promote the achievements the Silk Roads project. As a result of the interest generated, UNESCO began its second phase of the Silk Roads project in 2013, with a new initiative entitled, **Silk Roads Online Platform**. It serves as a global online repository, which aims to compile and disseminate critical information and knowledge about the Silk Roads shared heritage. Over the past few decades, UNESCO and its partners have continued to develop the project, highlighting current activities and events that have been undertaken by countries along the Silk Roads, and beyond. This includes information on scientific research and studies regarding various aspects of this heritage, including historical sites, cultural expression, museum collections, traditional craftsmanship, intangible heritage, artistic creations, scientific thought, and religious beliefs. The 2018 international photo contest, “Youth Lens on the Silk Roads”, which fits into the current context of globalization, is one of the most recent initiatives organized by UNESCO. Using photography as a preferred tool of communication encouraged young people to reflect on, and capture, the shared heritage and values of the Silk Roads.

100 countries
6625 Submissions

2 age categories:

- ➡ **14 to 17 years old**
- ➡ **18 to 25 years old**

4 themes :

- ➡ **Culture**
- ➡ **Monuments**
- ➡ **People**
- ➡ **Landscape**

List of the participating countries

- AFGHANISTAN
- ALBANIA
- ALGERIA
- ARGENTINA
- ARMENIA
- AUSTRALIA
- AZERBAIJAN
- BANGLADESH
- BELGIUM
- BENIN
- BHUTAN
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- BOTSWANA
- BRAZIL
- BULGARIA
- CAMBODIA
- CAMEROON
- CANADA
- CHILE
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
- COLOMBIA
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
- CROATIA
- EGYPT
- ESTONIA
- ETHIOPIA
- FINLAND
- FRANCE
- GEORGIA
- GERMANY
- GUYANA
- HONDURAS
- INDIA
- INDONESIA
- IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)
- IRAQ
- IRELAND
- ISRAEL
- ITALY
- JAMAICA
- JAPAN
- JORDAN
- KAZAKHSTAN
- KENYA
- KYRGYZSTAN
- LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
- LEBANON
- LIBERIA
- LIBYA
- LITHUANIA
- THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
- MADAGASCAR

- MALAYSIA
- MAURITANIA
- MAURITIUS
- MONGOLIA
- MOROCCO
- MYANMAR
- NEPAL
- NETHERLANDS
- NIGERIA
- OMAN
- PAKISTAN
- PALESTINE
- PANAMA
- PAPUA
NEW GUINEA
- PHILIPPINES
- POLAND
- ROMANIA
- RUSSIAN
FEDERATION

- RWANDA
- SAUDI ARABIA
- SERBIA
- SINGAPORE
- SLOVAKIA
- SLOVENIA
- SOUTH AFRICA
- REPUBLIC
OF KOREA
- SPAIN
- SRI LANKA
- SAINT LUCIA
- ESWATINI
- SWEDEN
- SWITZERLAND
- SYRIAN ARAB
REPUBLIC
- TAJIKISTAN
- TUNISIA
- TURKEY

- TURKMENISTAN
- UGANDA
- UKRAINE
- UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES
- UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN
IRELAND
- UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
- UNITED STATES
VIRGIN ISLANDS
- UZBEKISTAN
- VIET NAM
- YEMEN
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE



The Silk Roads

The Silk Roads are part of a vast region comprised of a network of maritime and land routes. They pass through South Asia and Southeast Asia, crossing the Central Asian subcontinent, the Russian steppes, the Iranian and Anatolian plateaus, and the Arabian Peninsula. They stretch across North Africa and North East Africa, from Tanzania to Morocco. Moreover, they extend through Eastern and Southern Europe, before linking France and Spain.

- Silk Roads
- Maritime Silk Roads (Spice Routes)
- Eurasian Steppe Routes
- Incense Roads
- - - Other Trade and Connecting Routes
- - - Secondary Trading Routes





Honorary advisors



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Reza

A philanthropist, idealist, and humanist, Reza Deghati, whose photographic signature is REZA, began his early career with the study of architecture. He has gone on to become a renowned photojournalist who has worked all over the world, notably for National Geographic. His work is featured in the international media (National Geographic, Time Magazine, Stern, Newsweek, El País, Paris Match, Geo...), as well as in a series of books, exhibitions and documentaries made for the National Geographic Channel.

Since 1983, along with his work as a photographer, Reza has been a volunteer committed to the training of youth and women from conflict-ridden societies in the language of images, in order to help them strive for a better world.

After his work, *Mémoires d'Exil* (Memories of Exile) was exhibited at the Louvre Carrousel in 1998, he has continued to share his humanitarian vision through a series of monumental installations: *Crossing Destinies*, *One World, One Tribe*, *War + Peace*, *Windows of the Soul*, *Soul of Coffee*, *Land of Azerbaijan: the Elegance of Fire and A Dream of Humanity*.

As an author of thirty books, and a recipient of numerous awards over the course of his career, Reza has been a Fellow (2006-2012) and Explorer of the National Geographic Society since 2013, as well as a Senior Fellow of the Ashoka Foundation. Reza's work has been recognized by World Press Photo, the Infinity Award, the Lucy Award. He has also received an honorary medal from the University of Missouri, and the honorary degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the American University of Paris. France also appointed him a Chevalier of the National Order of Merit.

Selection Committee



Farzana Wahidy | Photojournalist

Afghanistan

Farzana Wahidy is an award-winning Afghani documentary photographer and photojournalist, best known for her photographs of women and girls in Afghanistan. She was the first female Afghani photographer to collaborate with international media agencies, including the Associated Press (AP) and Agence France-Presse (AFP). Previously, Wahidy studied at the prestigious AINA Photojournalism Institute of Kabul. In 2002, Wahidy was one of fifteen students selected from more than five hundred applicants.



Guo Jing | Photographer and Curator

People's Republic of China

Guo Jing, photographer and curator, is Chief Art Director of Shangtuf Image and Art Club. She is a board member of the Global Photographic Union (GPU), Chapter President of the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) Shangtuf Chapter, as well as a representative for the Photographic Society of New York (PSNY) in Zhejiang. Since 2012, she has been invited to the jury of Trierenberg Super Circuit in Austria and other international competitions in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. She was invited by Photolucieda to be a part of their Portfolio Review program. In addition, she has curated photographic exhibitions for the following photography festivals in China. She was the Chief Curator of the international section for Yixian Photography Festival from 2013 to 2017, and Chief Curator of the Qinghai Sanjingyuan International Festival in 2014. She also curated an exhibition for Photo Beijing 2014, and won the Pegasus award for top honor for curators in China. Moreover, Jung served as Chief Curator for "Camel Bell on Silk Roads", the 1st China Naiman International Photography Festival.



Mike Davis | Photographer

United States of America

Mike Davis is the Director of the Alexia Foundation for Photography. He has twice been recognized as the “Newspaper Picture Editor of the Year”, and was the photography editor for multiple stories at National Geographic magazine. Davis has had previous experience judging photography competitions, ranging from regional, national, to international events. In addition, he has judged three “Pictures of the Year International” (POYi) contests. Moreover, Davis has delivered speeches at various universities and photography conferences. He obtained his Master of Arts degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Neo Ntsoma | Independent Photojournalist

South Africa

Neo Ntsoma is an award-winning South African photographer, educator and consultant whose photographs have appeared in major international newspapers, magazines and books, as well as in exhibitions worldwide. In 2004, Ntsoma became the first female recipient of the Mohamed Amin Award, and the CNN African Journalist of the Year Photography Prize. Understanding the importance of mentorship, she lectures frequently, both nationally and internationally.

Furthermore, Ntsoma co-authored the book, *Women by Women*, which is a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Women’s March. It was the largest demonstration staged in South African history, with 20, 000 women of all races marching against legislation aimed at tightening the apartheid government’s control over black womens’ movements in urban areas. In 2006, she was named one of the 100 Most Influential Women by Media24, Africa’s largest media group.



Osama Silwadi | Photojournalist

Palestine

Osama Silwadi, a Palestinian Photojournalist, Visual Storyteller and Folklorist, began his career in 1991 by documenting ongoing conflicts. At the age of nineteen, Silwadi worked as a freelance Photojournalist for various local newspapers, and later worked for Agence France-Presse (AFP) and Reuters. Moreover, he was a permanent correspondent in Palestine for the GAMMA photography agency. Silwadi believes in using photography as a vehicle in which to archive Palestinian visual history. Furthermore, he prioritizes photography's broader importance by documenting significant events. Osama has also published 11 Photo Books documenting parts of Palestinian Heritage.



Sylvie Brieu | Journalist, Author and Lecturer

France

Sylvie Brieu is a journalist, an author and an educator who graduated from the Sorbonne and UC Berkeley. Brieu is a founding member of National Geographic France and a former board member of National Geographic Society's "All Roads Film Project". This program provided a platform for underrepresented, minority-culture storytellers from around the world. Brieu has written numerous articles, which predominantly address cultural diversity and women's issues. Her books primarily focus on indigenous peoples who are actively working for social change and environmental justice. In addition, she lectures and offers workshops to schools, universities, UNESCO, National Geographic Society and the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society.

WINNERS of the photo contest

Category One 14-17 years old



1ST PRIZE

Zijie Gong
17 years old, People's Republic
of China

Rishab Nandi
14 years old, India

2ND PRIZE



Michael Theodric
16 years old, Indonesia

3RD PRIZE



Category Two 18-25 years old



1ST PRIZE

Pyae Phyo Thet Paing
25 years old, Myanmar

Xiaoyi Yan
22 years old, People's Republic
of China

2ND PRIZE



3RD PRIZE

Ahmed Gaber
21 years old, Egypt

WINNER 1ST PRIZE | 14-17 YEARS OLD

Zijie Gong

17 years old, People's Republic of China



Tibetan Girl Wearing Wild Flowers

This photo was taken in the grasslands between Sichuan and Tibet. It has been one of the pathways of the historic Silk Roads. The beautiful Tibetan girl with wildflowers lives on a plateau between China's Sichuan Province and Tibet.





WINNER 2ND PRIZE | 14-17 YEARS OLD

Rishab Nandi

14 years old, India



Memoirs of Love

A couple record their love and togetherness at the Taj Mahal, which is regarded as the symbol of Love. The lovers in silhouette were appealing to me against the bright monument. My image is photographed against the backdrop of the Taj Mahal, which depicts Mughal architecture influenced by Islamic architecture trends and culture. My image also depicts love, which is the universal language that might have travelled along the Silk Roads with the trade and ideas.

WINNER 3RD PRIZE | 14-17 YEARS OLD

Michael Theodric

16 years old, Indonesia



Gamelan

Mbah Ripto, playing a gamelan (a traditional Indonesian music instrument) that he made himself. "Gamelan" was founded in the 8th century in Borobudur Temple, which is a Buddhist temple. Buddhism was mainly spread along the Silk Roads.





WINNER 1ST PRIZE | 18-25 YEARS OLD

Pyae Phyo Thet Paing

25 years old, Myanmar



Historical Art of Bagan

Bagan belongs to Myanmar's heritage in Asia. There are many old pagodas and cultural buildings. The land of Bagan is so beautiful. At sunrise and sunset, Bagan is such a peaceful time. It is definitely a treasure of Myanmar. My photo represents a common heritage of Silk Roads because of its link to the past.







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毛主席万岁

毛主席万寿无疆



WINNER 2ND PRIZE | 18-25 YEARS OLD

Xiaoyi Yan

22 years old, People's Republic of China



Gongfu on Hand

Photographed in the old tea house in Peng, Chengdu, in the Sichuan province in China. Historically, Chinese tea was the main commodity of the Silk Road. In contemporary society, both the spiritual and cultural significance associated with tea and tea houses have been recognized by the world. Tea plays a major role in trade, while also helping to promote mutual understanding and respect between people.

3RD PRIZE | 18-25 YEARS OLD

Ahmed Gaber

21 years old, Egypt



Dream of the return

Respecting and showing affection towards elders is a value embedded in different cultures along the Silk Roads. An elderly lady is embraced by her son, Haja. Shama, 90, left Palestine in 1948 for Egypt with her family and settled at Fadel Island in Sharkya, Nile Delta. My photo represents the difference between the ease of travel in the past versus today. Previously, you could simply travel through countries via the Silk Roads.



HONORABLE MENTION | 14-17 YEARS OLD

Fardin Oyan

16 years old, Bangladesh



Fun Bath

The picture shows the happiness of childhood. These children live in my neighbourhood, in Mymensingh, Bangladesh. They were playing and having fun while it was raining.





HONORABLE MENTION | 14-17 YEARS OLD

Anushka Kesharwani

16 years old, India



Culture

Culture opens the sense of beauty. Culture is the arts elevated to a set of beliefs.





HONORABLE MENTION | 18-25 YEARS OLD

Amanullah Sedaqat

25 years old, Afghanistan



The School Way

During the Taliban regime, schools were closed to students in most parts of Afghanistan. They opened up again after the interim government. In Daikundi province, after 14 years of Taliban rule, there were still basic schools and facilities available for students. This photo was taken in 2016.









HONORABLE MENTION | 18-25 YEARS OLD

Nasiba Nurmatova

25 years old, Kyrgyzstan



Celestial Youth

Kyrgyz dancers on a traditional swing at the Teskei Jeek, South Shore, Issyk Kul Ethno Festival. Since ancient times, traditional dancing, which is part of the Silk Roads culture, has been passed down through generations.

BEST OF the photo contest



Yinzhi Pan

15 years old, Unites States of America

Fisherman at Inle

Inle Lake, Burma. Local fishermen have unique skills. These skills can be considered traditional knowledge, shared between different people along the Silk Roads.

Aeron Macintosh Sayno

16 years old, Philippines

Count Your Blessings!

A tandem of mother and child cheerfully collecting eggs from their livestock of ducks in the rural town of Victoria, Province of Laguna. Areas surrounding the Laguna De Bay are the ideal breeding ground for ducks due to the abundance of fresh water.





Eamon Brockenbrough

25 years old, United States of America

Dancers at Odzun

During the summer of 2017, I was lucky enough to spend a month travelling through Armenia. For such a small country, it is so incredibly saturated with amazing historic and cultural sites. Here, at the 5th century church of Odzun in the Lori province of Armenia, young women practice and perform a traditional dance to keep Armenian culture and pride alive for future generations.

Wai Yan Linn

23 years old, Myanmar

Collective Power

In our village culture, women collect water from the lake in the evening. While collecting the water, we always help each other. This is important in our society.





Aliasghar Feizollahi

24 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Freedom

The child freed a bird that was trapped in the house.

Md Sabbir
20 years old, Bangladesh

Childhood

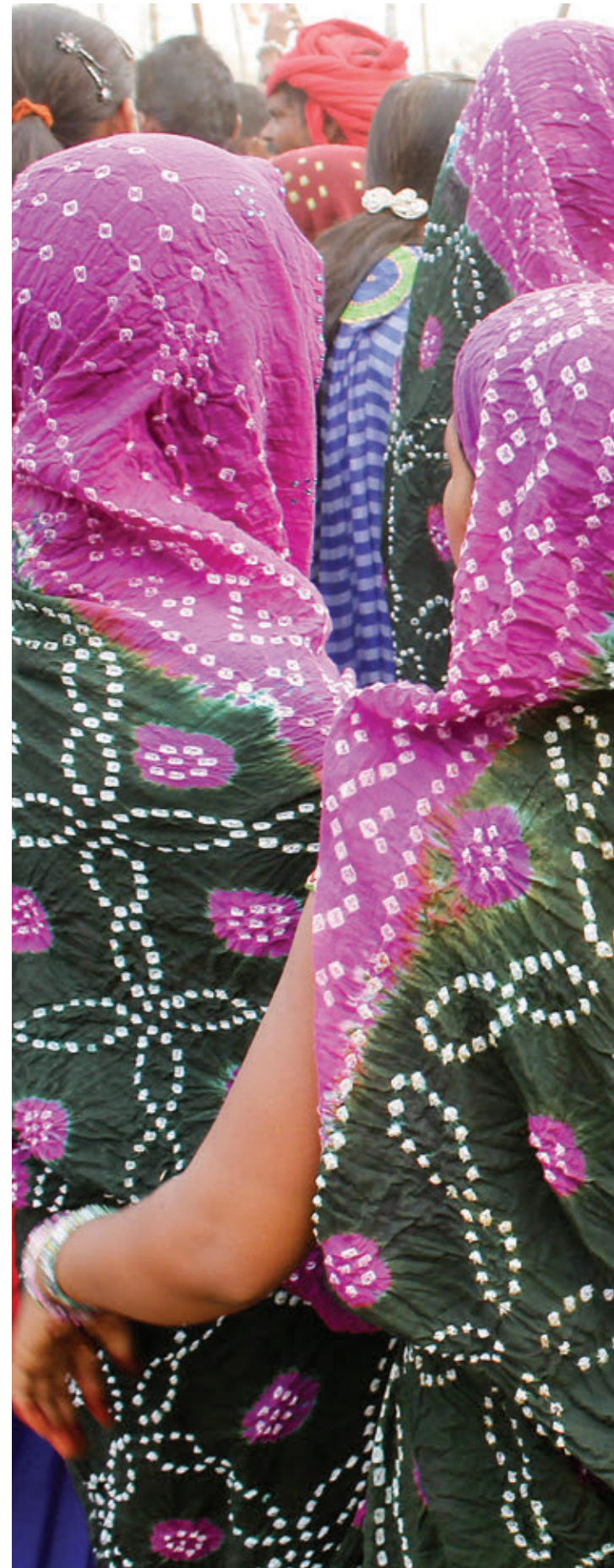
Beautiful childhood memories.
Children are playing with colorful dyes during
the Holi festival in Dhaka.



Parth Pathak
25 years old, India

Sakhi Vrund

A Photo of the Rathva Tribal People
(Chhotaudaupur, Gujrat, Kavant).





Sajed Haqshenas

19 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Kurdish Dance

Every spring, the Kurdish people celebrate the Nowruz festival.



Red Chili

Mathania is a town in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan, India. The fiery heart of the Thar Desert finds itself in the bright and fiery symbolic produce of this region – the Mathania mirchi (chili). In the past, Mathania was also known for the industrial production of malmal, but the textile trade soon withered away. Today, Mathania has resident families, especially females, harvesting, drying, and grinding the chili.





Camilla Pedretti

17 years old, Italy

A Light of Hope

Girl praying in the Ganges River, in the Holy city of Varanasi, India. Spirituality has been one of the major themes that people have in common along the Silk Roads.

Sharma Nachiket

16 years old, India

Peacock Dancers

Folk rituals are one of the major legacies of the Silk Roads. Folk dancers from Uttar Pradesh in India are performing a peacock dance at the Surajkund Fair near Delhi. Folk artists from all over India and around the world take part in this annual fair to showcase their talents.





Nil Guasch
25 years old, Spain

The Monk that Keeps the Light Burning

Hidden among the immense mountains of Ladakh, the Tibetan Buddhist monastery of Hemis is one of the most important and ancient of the region. In one of its rooms, hundreds of candles never stop burning. The monks take turns with the endless job of keeping the candles lit.

Hao Jie

20 years old, People's Republic of China

Longfei Fengwu Dance

This photograph was taken in Fujian Xunpu. Children actively participate in festivities in Fujian Xunpu. These kinds of cultural events help to pass down knowledge and tradition from generation to generation.









Hoàng Đức Nguyễn
22 years old, Viet Nam

A Thousand Lanterns

The couple poses for their wedding photo in front of a lantern shop in Hoi An, Viet Nam. Hoi An, known as the country's historic town, is the oldest town in Viet Nam. It still retains its 15th century charm. The town is especially romantic at night with thousands of lanterns in the street. Thus, it becomes the most romantic honeymoon landmark in Viet Nam.

Avijit Ghosh
24 years old, India

Festival of Light

Dev Deepavali' is a Festival of Light in Varansi, Uttar Pradesh, India. River ghats are lit with more than a million earthen lamps (diyas) in honor of Ganga, the Ganges, and its presiding goddess. It falls on the full moon of the Hindu month of Kartika, and takes place fifteen days after Diwali.



Anshul Khatri
16 years old, India

Festival of Colors

People celebrating the festival of colors during
the 'Holi' festival in Indore, India.



Xiang You

23 years old, People's Republic of China

Sunrise in Sahara

The man and his camel are walking alone
during sunrise in the Sahara Desert.
The Silk Road can be seen as a lonely,
but beautiful journey.







Khadim Hussain Ahmadi

23 years old, Afghanistan

Culture

The old man drinks a cup of tea after
a day's work.

Javad Hassanpour

25 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Old Woman

This old woman from the Kormanj tribe plays a local instrument. Her father taught her how to play this instrument.



Najeebullah Azad
25 years old, Afghanistan

Cultural Heritage Unites Native Communities

An audience watching a game of Buzkashi from the Buddha hilltop in Bamyan, Afghanistan. Buddha statues of Bamyan are UNESCO World Heritage sites, and also serve as a gathering place for major regional, national, and local events.





Mohammad Baghal Asghari
22 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Bazaar Carpet-Seller

A carpet-seller displays his products to customers in the Tabriz Grand Bazaar.

Munira Malakbozova
19 years old, Tajikistan

Patterns and Design of Tradition in Tajik Mountains of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region

Originating in ancient times and closely connected with history and traditions, the culture of the Pamir peoples is a historical contribution to the world's artistic culture along the Silk Road. The photo shows how much cultural heritage has been preserved on the Silk Road due to our ancestors. The woman in the photo shares the customs and traditions of local communities, and transmits these skills to future generations





Ali Reza Masoumi

24 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Traditional Wedding

A traditional Kormanj wedding in western Iran.





Yi Jia Zhang

17 years old, People's Republic of China

Chang'an Ring

Chang'an is the starting point of the Silk Roads.
It rings the door and pushes the door open.
History is in front of you.





Hani Alsuleimani

23 years old, Oman

Texture

The Art of Weaving is an old Omani Art. It is one of the original professions practiced by people in the garment industry. This particular art form continues to play an important role for Omanis who continue to master it. At first, the craftsman collects wool from the animals. He then cleans them, and prepares them for training. Then the craftsman forms the clothes into different shapes and attractive colors.



Léo Pierre

24 years old, France

The Silk Weaver

At Inle Lake in Myanmar, the tradition of silk weaving by hand continues even today. For one fabric, thousands of precise gestures are needed, punctuated by the sound of the shuttle going back and forth on the loom.

Milad Samangani

24 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Commemoration

In the afternoon of Ashura, villagers go to a cemetery that is located on a hill in the village to commemorate their dead.





Muhammad Qasim
21 years old, Pakistan

Madrassa

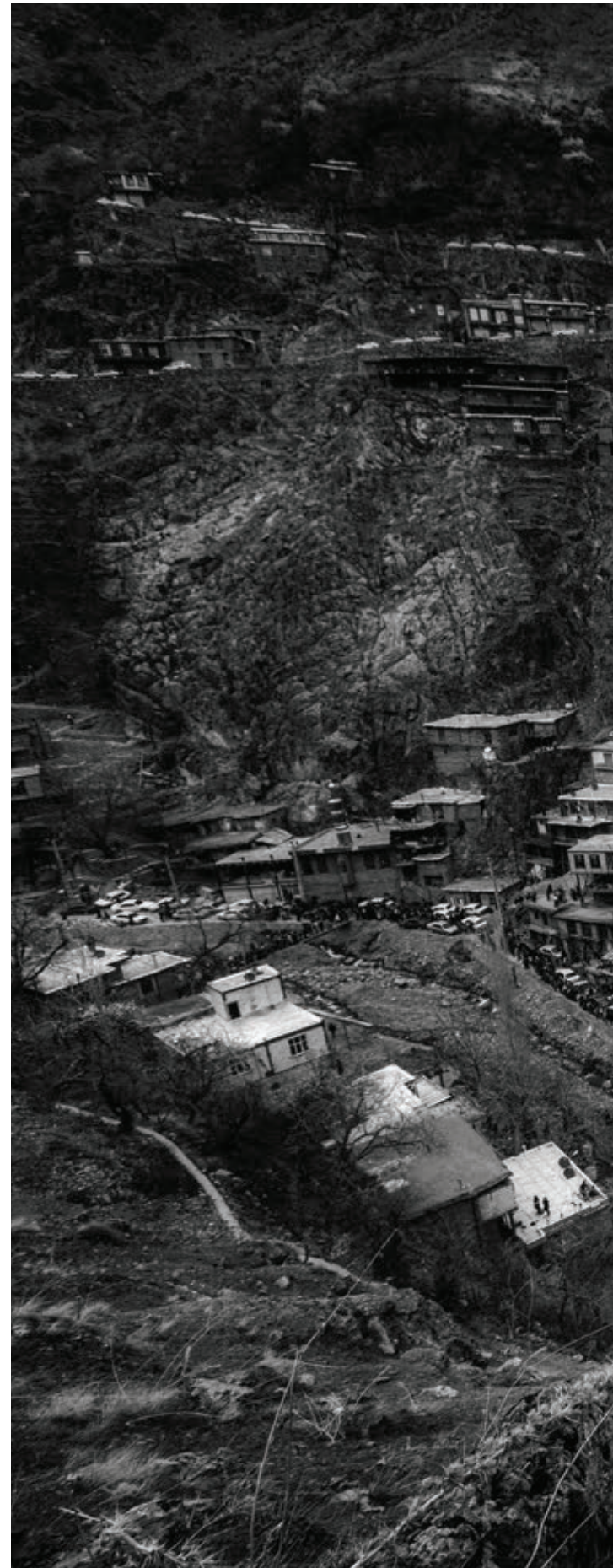
A Madrassa in Keran, Kashmir, Pakistan.

Babak Mehrafshar

25 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Village Man

A man is sitting on the top of a hill in the village of his birth. He gave me the chance to take a picture of him. He represents the long-lasting pathways of the Silk Roads.





Raghav Paul
20 years old, India

Dusk in the Dunes

From the beginning of the Silk Roads until today, Bactrian camels have carried travelers through the mountains and desert in the Nubra Valley.







Hesham Ramadan

23 years old, Egypt

An Egyptian Boy

A young boy stands outside as sentry in a camel market at Birqash, Giza, Egypt. They said things will be ok in the future when I grow up and become a man. However, they didn't know that I have never lived like a child, but always like a man.

Mohammad Safarpour

24 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Rural Bath

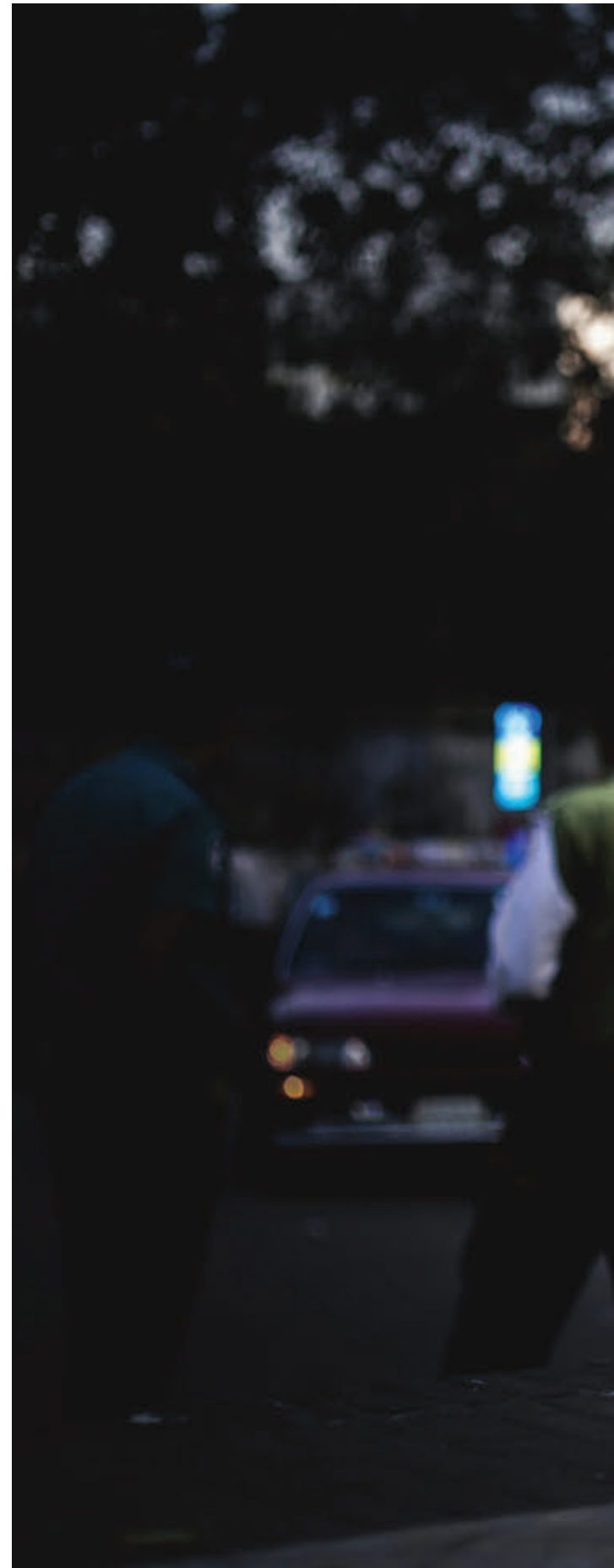
Interior view of the rural bath in Bonjnourd, Iran. Public baths have been major gathering centers along the Silk Roads, sharing common elements from Anatolia to Central Asia.



Md Khairul Islam
25 years old, Bangladesh

Street Father

Here in Dhaka, many homeless people live on the streets. A father is sitting and taking care of his baby in a chaotic urban environment.





Hamza Mehimdate

25 years old, Morocco

Fantazi

Fantazi is a traditional display of force against the colonizers.



Mirkan Tunç
23 years old, Turkey

Green and Labor

I visited the city where my friend lives. His house was surrounded by tea fields. When we wandered around together, we encountered workers in the tea fields and we talked to them. At that time, I took their photographs with my camera, and then we left.





Quyet Thang Dau
24 years old, Viet Nam

Women in Agriculture

Rice not only brings prosperity, but it also brings beauty to the spiritual life of the Vietnamese people. Both rice and the hard-working farmers that produce it are indispensable to the growth of the Vietnamese village, today and forever.





Vinh Le

25 years old, Canada

Hang En, The Swallow Cave

The exploration of the Hang En Cave in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, (a UNESCO World Heritage site), was a one of a kind adventure inside the third largest cave in the world! After a 15 km hike, crossing through the jungle's river 28 times, we arrived at the mouth of the Hang En Cave. In this particular shot, I was able to climb up the cave wall and capture the cave's beach and mouth opening. Fun fact: En Cave also has its own jungle and climate.



Arina Akhmetova

17 years old, Russian Federation

Karakorum

This is a beautiful picture of mountains and a lake after sunset near Karakorum, Mongolia, one of the major pathways along the Silk Roads.







Ananya Jain
14 years old, India

Wanderlust in a Snow Desert

This small caravan of local nomads was taken while coming out of fairy tale.

Tanin Kayvan
22 years old, Canada

Tsaatan Girl

A girl from the Tsaatan tribe in Mongolia
embraces a reindeer outside of her family's tipi.





Sheep Market

In the ten days leading up to Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha every year, popular markets in the country's various regions are called "Habtah Al-Eid", a local term for traditional seasonal markets. Different things are sold, such as Omani clothes, toys and sweets. However, the sale of cattle and sheep is so important that a competitive process between the buyers is organized. It is a long-lasting legacy of trade and commerce in Oman, which is one of the major centers of exchange along the Silk Roads.



Anas Aldheeb
24 years old, Oman

Working Together

The Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean have shaped Omani's professional lives, and have also opened routes of commerce. Since ancient times, fishing and hunting have been the most important professions. This photo shows that everyone must work together as a team.





The Reflected Beauty

A Mughal Masterpiece. Humayun Tomb is the tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun in Delhi, India. It was built by his first wife and chief consort, Empress Bega Begum, (also known as Haji Begum). Humayun Tomb is the precursor to the Taj Mahal. It contains elements of different architectural designs along the Silk Roads, and is a testament to cultural exchanges.



Mohamed Boublouh

17 years old, Morocco

Frank Eyes

The Moroccan culture reflects many influences of its inhabitants. This image represents the Amazigh style, which is beautiful and attentive. The Amazigh style contains elements that are shared by different cultures along the Silk Roads.





John Leonardo IV Rosales Dimain

24 years old, Philippines

Woman of Buscalan

These tattoos not only satisfy the need to display personal accomplishments, they also embody religious beliefs about the relationship between humans, animals, spirits and our ancestors who controlled human destiny and the surrounding world.

Andrea Van Acker
21 years old, Belgium

Feast of the Khan

Breakfast is served in Khiva, Uzbekistan: an ancient Silk Road trading city renowned for its splendour and merging of cultures.





Guo Zhaowen

20 years old, People's Republic of China

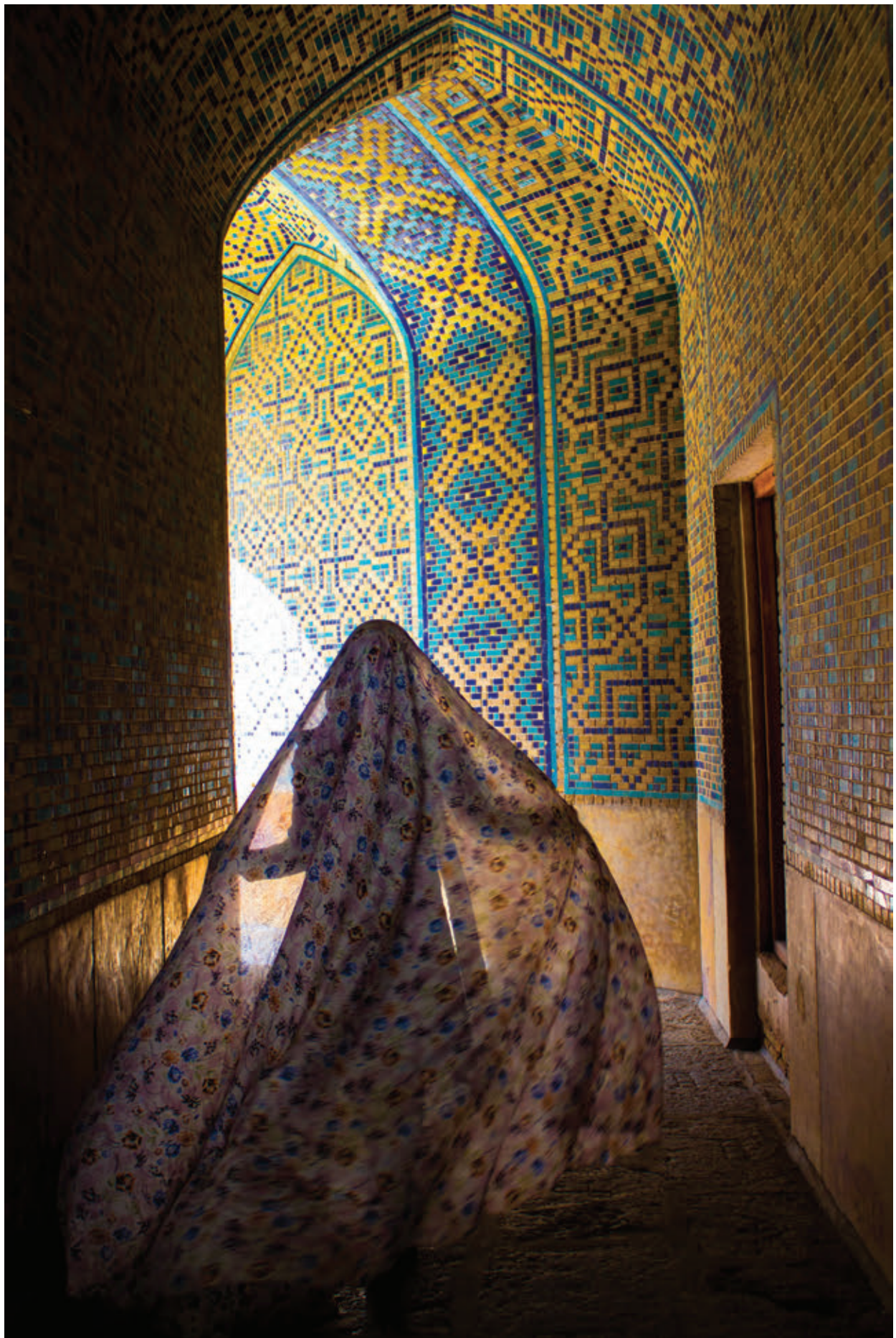
Wild Rhapsody of the Mountains in Ili Zhou,
Xinjiang Weiwuerzizhiqu, People's Republic
of China.

Zahra Akhavan Sarraf

24 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Roaming Dreams

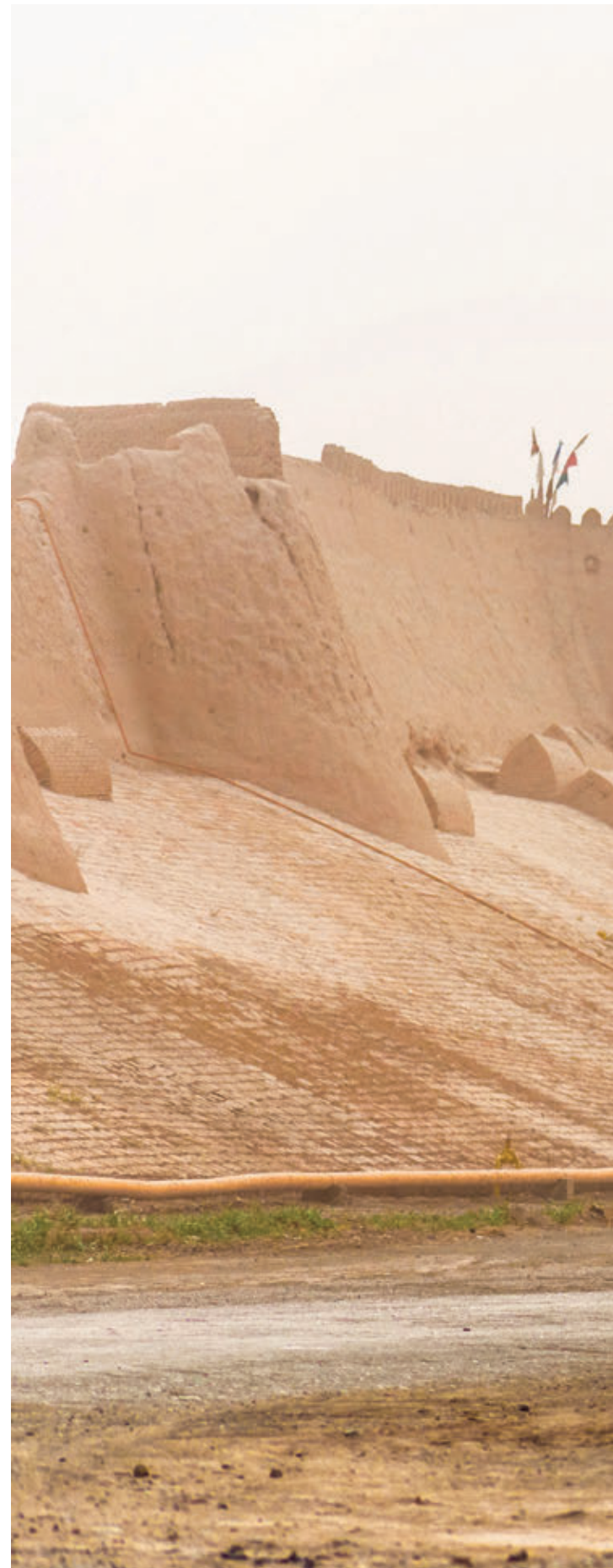
A woman walks in the corridors of an old mosque in the city of Isfahan. It is an historic hall of light and color.



Rinat Musin
17 years old, Uzbekistan

Father and Son

Father and son walk down the Ark (old fortress) wall in Khiva, which has been one the major centers of commerce and culture along the Silk Roads.







Hannaneh Maghsoudi

16 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Nowruz

People dancing and celebrating Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, in front of a church in Jolfa. Celebrated every year on the 1st day of spring, Nowruz is one of the common rituals that is appreciated by different cultures along the Silk Roads.

Karar Ali Sabih
16 years old, Iraq

Scrap Repairer

My father accompanied me while I photographed people who work at the old market in the city of Kufa. I enjoyed his companionship. He gave me his camera to encourage me to photograph interesting people and topics. A scrap repairman is a man in an old market near the river who repairs old tools. Videos, documentary programs, and a commitment to passing down knowledge to future generations helps us all learn more about the Silk Road.





Fatima Shbair
20 years old, Palestine

A Palestinian Wedding, Henna Night

Henna night in the village is the most important night for a bride, which precedes the wedding night. This is an old Palestinian custom where the friends and relatives of the bride meet to celebrate and bid farewell to her as her last night in her family's home while they chant sad folk songs called "Altarwida". Wearing the traditional dress according to the Palestinian heritage is very important.





Li Man Kit

25 years old, People's Republic of China

Devotion

Devotion is not one way only. God bless you.

S^t Petersburg, Kazan Cathedral, Russia.



Badr Al Qassabi
25 years old, Oman

Sandalwood

A woman puts sandalwood on a child's face.
I took this photo during a festival in the
SAFA house.

Mohamed Mahdy

22 years old, Egypt

Gamalat

The legend, “Gamalat Shiha”, passed away at the age of 85. Gamalat Shiha was famous for folk music, including her ‘mawwal’ songs. She has performed in many concerts in and outside of Egypt with a folk band, accompanied by Fathi Salama, an Egyptian musician.



Noufal Said Salim Alruzeiqi

24 years old, Oman

Beauty

Beautiful young girls are putting on traditional make-up.



Osama Said Salim Alruziqi

16 years old, Oman

Omani Child

Situated at the crossroads of different routes along the Maritime Silk Roads, Sultanate of Oman is unique in its cultural and historical heritage.





Varna Srinivasan

14 years old, India

Market Lights – God Man

Lights illuminate the simple life in the markets.
Markets have been essential in motivating
people to travel, as well as exchanging goods
and ideas along the Silk Roads.



Xunbai Yu

17 years old, People's Republic of China

Rainbow

Sunrise in the East, rain in the West.

This photograph was taken in the Sichuan
Province, Aba, in 2014.







Amirsalar Mazaherkermani

22 years old, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

The Milky Way of the Silk Roads

Stars have guided the navigational routes for travelers and caravans along the Silk Roads, and they also serve as a source for artistic and literary inspiration. When I was staring at the night sky and billions of stars in the middle of the desert in Iran, I was wondering what fascinating stories they saw throughout the history of the Silk Roads.

Alaman Ulak

Alaman Ulak is a traditional Kyrgyz Horse Game, one of the country's ancient, national sports. In this game, a calf carcass or goat is used. There are no specific rules for the game. The main prize is given to the participant who will raise the carcass of the goat and carry it to a certain place. Before the start of the game. Currently, Alaman Ulak is a very popular game in the southern part of the country. Anyone can play, and more than 3,000 people have participated in Osh.







Guangyu Wen

24 years old, People's Republic of China

Sunrise

Sunrise in a quiet, peaceful town in Cemero Lawang, Java Island, Indonesia, which has been one of the major pathways along the Maritime Silk Roads.





Daniel Rolider
22 years old, Israel

Climbing Bedouin

A young Bedouin boy climbing barefoot on a boulder in the middle of Wadi Rum, Jordan. Throughout its poetical existence, the Silk Road has had significant value in our history as human beings, especially in our globalized world. It represents the shared, rich history, of many cultures, countries and people.





Manjeet Bhowal

24 years old, India

Beloved Childhood

This image was taken in a small village in India. I think what you have inside is reflected on your face and by your expressions. A meaningful life is all about being a real human being: being humble, and being able to share ourselves and touch the lives of others. This is how I feel about this image.

Best Photographs of the Competition

Photo Credits : UNESCO/Photographer

A

Ahmadi, Khadim Hussain | 81
23 Years old – Afghanistan

Akhavan Sarraf, Zahra | 141
24 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

Akhmetova, Arina | 121
17 Years old – Russian
Federation

Al Qassabi, Badr | 153
25 Years old – Oman

Aldheeb, Anas | 129
24 Years old – Oman

Ali Sabih, Karar | 147
16 Years old – Iraq

Alruzeiqi, Noufal Said Salim | 157
24 Years old – Oman

Alruziqi, Osama Said Salim | 159
16 Years old – Oman

Alsuleimani, Hani | 95
23 Years old – Oman

Ashirali Uulu, Nurbek | 167
22 Years old – Kyrgyzstan

Azad, Najeebullah | 85
25 Years old – Afghanistan

B

Baghal Asghari, Mohammad | 87
22 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

Bhowal, Manjeet | 173
24 Years old – India

Boublouh, Mohamed | 133
17 Years old – Morocco

Brockenbrough, Eamon | 51
25 Years old – United States
of America

D

Dau, Quyet Thang | 117
22 Years old – Viet Nam

F

Fadhil, Abdullah | 127
24 Years old – Oman

Feizollahi, Aliasghar | 55
24 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

G

Gaber, Ahmed | 37
21 Years old – Egypt

Ghosh, Avijit | 75
24 Years old – India

Gong, Zijie | 27
17 Years old – People's Republic
of China

Guasch, Nil | 69
25 Years old – Spain

H

Haqshenas, Sajed | 61
19 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

Hassanpour, Javad | 83
25 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

I

Islam, Md Khairul | 111
25 years old, Bangladesh

J

Jain, Ananya | 123
14 Years old – India

Javed, Mohsin | 131
17 Years old – India

Jie, Hao | 71
20 Years old – People's Republic
of China

K

Kayvan, Tanin | 125
22 Years old – Canada

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16 Years old – India

Khatrri, Anshul | 77
16 Years old – India

L

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25 Years old – Canada

Linn, Wai Yan | 53
23 Years old – Myanmar

M

Maghsoudi, Hannaneh | 145
16 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

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22 Years old – Egypt

Malakbozova, Munira | 89
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of China

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(Islamic Republic of)

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22 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

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25 Years old – Morocco

Mehrafshar, Babak | 103
25 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

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17 Years old – Uzbekistan

N

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16 Years old – India

Nandi, Rishab | 29
14 Years old – India

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25 Years old – Kyrgyzstan

O

Oyan, Fardin | 39
16 Years old – Bangladesh

P

Pan, Yinzhi | 47
15 Years old – United States of America

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25 Years old – India

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20 Years old – India

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17 Years old – Italy

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24 Years old – France

Q

Qasim, Muhammad | 101
21 Years old – Pakistan

R

Ramadan, Hesham | 107
23 Years old – Egypt

Rolider, Daniel | 171
22 Years old – Israel

**Rosales Dimain,
IV John Leonardo** | 135
24 Years old – Philippines

S

Sabbir, MD | 57
20 Years old – Bangladesh

Safarpour, Mohammad | 109
24 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

Saha, Deeppanjana | 63
17 Years old – India

Samangani, Milad | 99
24 Years old – Iran
(Islamic Republic of)

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16 Years old – Philippines

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25 Years old – Afghanistan

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20 Years old – Palestine

Srinivasan, Varna | 161
14 Years old – India

T

Theodric, Michael | 31
16 Years old – Indonesia

Thet Paing, Pyae Phyoe | 33
25 Years old – Myanmar

Tunç, Mirkan | 115
23 Years old – Turkey

V

Van Acker, Andrea | 137
21 Years old – Belgium

W

Wen, Guangyu | 169
24 Years old – People's Republic of China

Y

Yan, Xiaoyi | 35
22 Years old – People's Republic of China

You, Xiang | 79
23 Years old – People's Republic of China

Yu, Xunbai | 163
17 Years old – People's Republic of China

Z

Zhang, Yi Jia | 93
17 Years old – People's Republic of China

Zhaowen, Guo | 139
20 Years old – People's Republic of China

Photographs: Photographs submitted
to the international photo contest
“Youth Eyes On The Silk Roads, 2018”

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www.cwpf.org.cn

This Photo Album is the result of the International Photo Contest, “Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads”, organized by the UNESCO Silk Roads Project, in collaboration with the Youth Programme, in order to contribute to the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022). This initiative, which benefited from the support and valuable advice of the renowned photographer and humanitarian, Reza, offered a good opportunity for young people from different regions of the world to visually capture their understanding and impressions of the Silk Roads in their respective countries.

Visual arts were chosen because they serve as the primary communication tool for today’s youth. They can play a crucial role in raising awareness for younger generations on this important history, which has shaped our modern societies. The Silk Roads encompass networks of land and maritime routes that covered most of the continents passing through different sub-regions of Asia, Europe and Africa as shown in the map included in the book.

The International Photo Contest has provided an opportunity for youth living or travelling along these Silk Roads to reflect on the concept of common heritage and plural identities while trying to express their views and visions through photography.

The contest was divided into two age groups: 14-17 years old, and 18-25 years old. Participants were invited to submit their photographs, which were then examined by a Selection Committee composed of renowned photographers from different regions of the world. The contest culminated in an Awards Ceremony, in which the winners (three from each age category) participated, sharing their ideas and proposals that would help to reinforce the engagement of activities for youth related to Silk Roads.

A travelling exhibition composed of fifty-seven of the best photos has been created, and is being put at the disposal of various partners in UNESCO Member States.

This Photo Album gathers 74 photos which best illustrate the spirit of the contest, and the diversity of youth’s views on the Silk Roads common heritage. Let us discover their images and comments on this Route of Dialogue.