

NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Eugenio Grosso Kurdistan Memories

Texts by Eugenio Grosso, Marta Serafini
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Grosso's pictures trace Kurdish identity in its many appearances and visualize a highly topical subject.

Since their resistance against the Islamic State (IS), the Kurds have once again become the focus of public attention. Who is this people, this minority, who defies terrorism? How do they live in their efforts to establish an independent state; what does their day-to-day life look like?

The young Italian photographer Eugenio Grosso traveled for six months through the Kurdish areas in Iraq to become familiar with this special people. His photos reveal a broad range of lifestyles between luxury villas and refugee accommodations, as well as markets, scenes of everyday life, and traditions. Peshmerga soldiers and their camps can be viewed up close; the danger they expose themselves to becomes tangible. This unique photographic documentation is accompanied by diary entries by the young photojournalist.

»We arrived in Qaraqosh early in the morning, between 8 and gam, and went straight to the vicariate that, during the occupation, had been turned by the fighters into both a mosque and their barracks. ...The floor in the hallway was full of ripped mats and wires were hanging from the ceiling like lianas in the jungle. The explosive specialists had to cut all the wires of the electrical system as well as the mats to make sure that no explosive devices had been hidden in the building. I stepped over the mats and made my way towards light dripping out from the door of one of the rooms. Inside this pink room I realised that these, once classrooms for children of the community, had been turned by the militants into fighters' shelters. There were traces of their presence every-

where: food leftovers, bottles of water, the beards they shaved when they realised that the battle was lost, and their clothes with the handwriting 'soldier of the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq'.«
 – excerpt from the text by Eugenio Grosso

»The Kurds have no friends but the mountains.«
 – Kurdish saying

Eugenio Grosso (b. 1984) moved to Milan at the age of eighteen to study his Bachelors in Design and Fine Arts at the Accademia delle Belle Arti di Brera, and graduated in 2007 with honours. He has worked as a part-time commercial photographer since 2007 and as a full-time photojournalist since 2009. He is a regular contributor to Italian publications and his work has been featured in international publications like the Guardian, the Telegraph, the Financial Times, the BBC and the Washington Post.

Book Signing

Paris Photo 2018
 November 10, 14.00, booth SE 06

Book Launch

Officine Fotografiche Milano
 December 4, 2018

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Press Images



1_ Heval Cekdar and other guerrillas stand on top of a mountain from where they overlook the peaks and valleys of Qandil.
© Eugenio Grosso



2_ Unaccompanied boy poses for a portrait in the shelter run by the Italian NGO Terre des Hommes in the Debaga camp.
© Eugenio Grosso



3_ A peshmerga rooftop observation post.
© Eugenio Grosso



4_ Three peshmergas look at a map after a day of fighting.
© Eugenio Grosso



5_ A girl wearing a traditional Kurdish dress holds her brother and poses for a portrait during the Newroz celebration.
© Eugenio Grosso



6_ A group of female guerrillas dance in Qandil during Newroz (Persian New Year).
© Eugenio Grosso



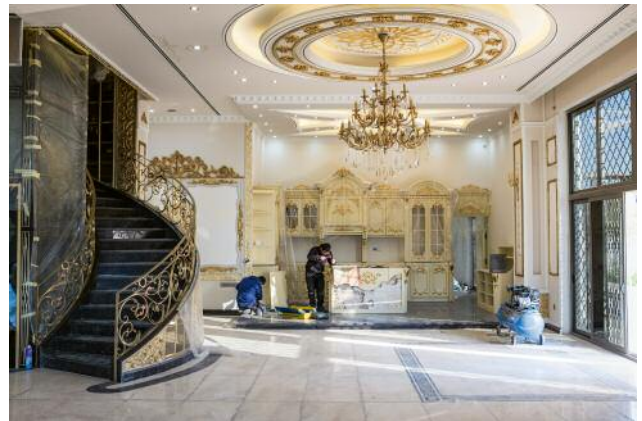
7_Two sisters of the Dominican Order of Saint Catherine walk inside the Church of Saint Banham and Saint Sarah in Qaraqosh. The church had been devastated during ISIS occupation.
© Eugenio Grosso



8_Men loaded in the back of a truck try to catch packs of cigarettes thrown at them by peshmergas. Smoking was forbidden under ISIS and punishable by imprisonment.
© Eugenio Grosso



9_Three young women enjoy themselves at a book café open by a female entrepreneur in Erbil's new compound Dream City.
© Eugenio Grosso



10_The inside of a villa in Dream City.
© Eugenio Grosso



11_A group of young worshippers walk between rooms inside Lalish temple; in the background, a boy guards one of the shrines. The religion celebrates the sun and light as manifestations of God, and many Yazidi rituals involve fire.
© Eugenio Grosso



12_Detail of a petrol station near Sulaymaniyah.
© Eugenio Grosso