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EYE OF THE STORM

Photojournalism isn't dead yet - see what we mean at these great Contact photo festival exhibitions

You might catch a scoop on your cellphone - and you might even help change the world - but your lucky shot probably won't stand up aesthetically or dramatically to the work of experienced photojournalists who fearlessly follow the action into conflict zones worldwide.

It's a tight-knit group, as evidenced by a recent New York Times article in which photog Michael Kamber described how Bang Bang Club alumnus João Silva, in hospital after his legs were blown off in Afghanistan, broke the news to him about the deaths in Libya of colleagues Chris Hondros and Restrepo co-director Tim Hetherington.

Our visual sense of what is happening in the world would be poorer without them. Not all of the artists listed below call themselves photojournalists, but they all have in common a desire to turn a lens on power relations.



GIORGIO BARRERA



GUY TILLIM



BOREAL COLLECTIVE



(234 Bay, 416-363-6121), to June 14
A South African who was part of activist photo agency Afrapix during the unravelling of apartheid, Tillim depicts in these quiet photos the legacy of colonialism through the European-style modernist architecture found on streets named for martyred Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba in various African cities. Co-presented by Wedge Curatorial Projects.

(Spadina and Front West), to June 4
In these images from his Permanent Error series, South African Hugo documents the intense, dignified slum-dwellers who sort through discarded computer refuse in Ghana.

(108 Cumberland, 416-964-2374), to May 31
Award-winning and widely published Canadian photojournalist Palu's *The Fighting Season* was shot during the five years he's covered the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. His past work includes series on Guantánamo and mining in Quebec.

(324 Dundas West, 416-977-0400), to May 13
A group of young photojournalists - Rafal Gerszak's spent time in Afghanistan, Ian Willms and the National Post's Brett Gundlock covered the G20 protests, Vancouver's Jonathan Taggart's documented First Nations issues and Aaron Vincent Elkaim works in Toronto and the Middle East - here explore environmental degradation, aboriginal communities and immigration in Canada.

(55 Mill, 416-203-3443), to May 31
Mexico-born photojournalist Cazalis, who's documented bullfighting, the São Paulo slums and the aftermath of

the earthquake in Haiti, looks at the impact of megacities on their inhabitants and the environment in Japan, Iran, Mexico, Brazil and Bangladesh.

(136 Beverley, 416-977-1566), to July 17
A Milanese editorial and art photographer who also does video, Barrera comes at conflict from a temporal distance in his large-format representations of healed-over sites of battles in the Italian war of independence, appropriately placed in the garden of the nation's consulate.

(952 Queen West, 416-395-0067), to August 31
Like Barrera, activist Toronto artists Flanders, who grew up in Israel and is a spokesperson for *Queers Against Israeli Apartheid*, and Sawatzky, trained as an architect, present a deceptively peaceful scene that conceals conflict. It's from their series *What Isn't There*, documenting sites where Palestinian villages once stood.

(345 Sorauren, 416-477-2487), to May 29

See review, page 56. **FRAN SCHECHTER**

CARLOS CAZALIS



ELLE FLANDERS and TAMIRA SAWATZKY



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