**Diego Ibarra Sánchez**

**Alive and Well**

From March 15th to April 27th 2019

**Opening Friday, March 15th, 2019**

6.30pm - 9.00pm

Raffaella De Chirico Contemporary Art, Turin

*“Now's the time*

*To rearrange your life*

*Live for something*

*Outside of your own mind”*

Alive and Well, Rise Against, 2001

Friday, March 15th Raffaella De Chirico will inaugurate the personal exhibition of the Spanish photoreporter **Diego Ibarra Sánchez**, "Alive and Well", on show until April 27th 2019.

When education is devastated by war, it generates a catastrophic effect on the education and childhood of entire generations of children.

"Education hijacked" is the title of the photographic project on the lost training of Diego Ibarra Sánchez born in 2009 in Pakistan and since 2014, after the choice of the photojournalist to make Beirut its base of operations, it also develops in other countries like Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Colombia. "The goal is to create a personal and universal account that shows how violence, extremism, intolerance and fear are sweeping the future of an entire generation of thousands of children," says the photoreporter.

There are schools destroyed and abandoned, teachers and students forced into exile, books burned, photographs on the ground, identity lost and stolen. Empty classrooms, piled up, covered by the emptiness of ignorance.

At the same time, north of the Black Sea, due to the armed conflict between Ukrainians and separatists who support Russia, it forms another reality, no less dramatic. In schools, clubs and summer camps, hundreds of children play the war while they are trained in military disciplines and fire tactics.

Gas masks, wooden guns, fake trenches and grenades coexist with patriotic anthems and hatred of the enemy, becoming an integral part of a national military-patriotic education initiative for the population. Childhood is eroded by conflict and becomes a means of spreading political propaganda. In this case, education is plundered by patriotism.

The shots of Diego Ibarra Sánchez become not only a window on a tumultuous and violent world, not only a fight to divulge stories never told, but a means to raise questions and provide non-stereotypical answers, all through a particular aesthetic sensitivity that leads the viewer at the focal point of the tragedy.

**BIO**

Diego Ibarra Sánchez, co-founder of MeMo, is a documentary photographer based in Lebanon.

He works on his own body of works, publishing many of his stories in various newspapers and magazines, such as the New York Times, Der Spiegel, Revista 5W, Al Jazeera, Diaries ARA, UNHCR and UNICEF.

In 2006, several scholarships allow him to spend a year in South America to improve his storytelling process. On his return to Spain, he worked for the Catalan newspaper Avui for two years, continuing his photographic projects. In 2009 Diego moved to Pakistan where he developed a strong visual body of work focused on this country. At the same time, he continues to travel to many other countries, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Libya, Nigeria and Tanzania. He left Pakistan in 2014 and moved to Beirut, Lebanon, and continued to travel and work on his projects in the Middle East.

He received the AICID "Juan Bartolomé" Humanitarian Prize, the Mexican FINI University Photographic Prize, the Aragón Journalism Association Prize, two honorable mentions at the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA), the first place at the International Photographic Awards (IPA) and the Spanish Prize for Human Rights with MeMo. His work has been exhibited all over the world and his works have been repeatedly highlighted during the screening evenings of Visa pour L'image.

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**From March 15th to April 30th 2019**

**Raffaella De Chirico Contemporary Art**

**Via Della Rocca, 19 10123 Turin**

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