

### Windows of the Soul: My Journeys in the Muslim World

In a riveting personal story illustrated with stunning images she risked her life to capture, photojournalist Alexandra Avakian shares the challenges, insights, and rewards of nearly two decades spent photographing Muslims around the world—often in lands torn by poverty, repression, and conflict. She lived for two years in Gaza, often in Islamic dress, roughed up by Israeli soldiers and beaten bloody by Hamas. She faced down murderous militias with loaded guns in Somalia—where death can come at any time, over nothing at all. She traveled extensively with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who called her “troublemaker” and “dictator” yet gave her unprecedented access. She pursued her Armenian roots in Iran and Muslim culture in the United States, discovering vibrant communities where Middle Eastern and Middle American qualities blend.

Avakian freely admits feeling fear in some situations—but it paled against her desire to record the human struggle for freedom and the willingness of people to risk their lives to gain it. Related in gripping words and images that astonish us with their emotion, immediacy, and power, Avakian’s experiences compel us into the Muslim world to meet families and radicals, farmers and artisans, leaders and thieves—and all the while we learn more and more about unfamiliar societies and the drive of the human spirit to soar in order to survive. Avakian’s style is always probing, yet with great sensitivity and heart. Her photographs captivate, educate, and linger with us forever.

#### PUBLICATION:

*Windows of the Soul: My Journeys in the Muslim World*  
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Photographs and text by Alexandra Avakian  
Edited by Leah Bendavid-Val

#### CONTENTS:

The exhibition consists of 8-10 large-size unframed digital pigment prints (4x6 feet) and 60 framed black and white and color digital pigment prints. The show requires 250 linear feet.

#### PARTICIPATION FEE & AVAILABILITY:

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#### Images from the Book

