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**GABRIELA BULISOVA** *The Option of Last Resort: Iraqi Refugees in the United States*

March 9 – May 30, 2010



**“These photographs are intended to puncture the statistics and reveal human beings, human beings who need our immediate help.”**

**-Gabriela Bulisova**

*Iraqi Refugees #3, United States, 2009*  
Digital Photograph, 20" x 30"  
Courtesy of the artist

***Bulisova documents the lives of Iraqi refugees in the U.S.***

Wilmington, Del. – 8 March 2010 – The Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts announces *The Option of Last Resort: Iraqi Refugees in the United States*, a solo exhibition by artist Gabriela Bulisova, on view in the E. Avery Draper Showcase from March 9 through May 30, 2010. The press is invited to attend the artists' reception of the exhibition during the Art on the Town reception on Friday, April 9, 2010, from 5 - 9 pm.

Gabriela Bulisova is a documentary photographer from the former Czechoslovakia, currently based in Washington, DC. Her exhibition, *The Option of Last Resort: Iraqi Refugees in the United States*, concentrates on the effects of the Iraqi war, especially on those who have helped the United States and who have been granted asylum in this country. She documents those who acted as interpreters for the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. government, and U.S. companies and who now live in fear for themselves and their families. As Bulisova's powerful images demonstrate, asylum in the U.S. has not provided a tidy ending to their life stories. As is the tradition with much documentary photography, Bulisova attaches detailed captions to her images that tell the story in words (recorded words in this case) that we see in pictures. From each—words and image—we learn of the despair, hope, and difficulty of the lives of these individuals.

Like so many great documentary photographers of the past, Bulisova is not a dispassionate observer, but rather an active advocate for her subjects, someone who combines a fierce belief in social justice with sensitivity to the formal elements of the photographic image. She is sensitive to her subjects' despair and suffering and respects their dignity and resilience in the midst of often-unimaginable hardship. She, like so many socially committed photographers before her, believes that an image can reveal the truth and move the public to take action. For full commentary please visit our website at: <http://www.thedcca.org/Galleries/draper.html>.

**GABRIELA BULISOVA (TALL TIMBERS, MD)** received her MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, MD. Among her recent solo exhibitions are Caja de Luz in Barcelona, Spain; the Corcoran Corridor Gallery, and Fraser Gallery in Washington, DC; Prince George's Arts Council in Riverdale, MD; and the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington, VA. A selection of her recent group exhibitions includes the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum and Honfleur Gallery in Washington, DC; United Nations in New York, NY; and the Fine Arts Gallery at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Bulisova has received numerous recognitions and awards including: the Corcoran School of Art and Design Faculty Grant Award; the Aperture Portfolio Review Top Tier Portfolios of Merit; the CEC ArtsLink Projects grant; the Puffin Foundation Grant; and the CANON "Explorer of Light" award.

DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS  
200 South Madison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 • 302.656.6466 • [www.thedcca.org](http://www.thedcca.org)

### **Docent-led Tours**

To arrange docent-led tours for DCCA exhibitions, contact the Education Department at 302-656-6466 x7106.

### **About the DCCA**

The DCCA, a non-collecting art museum founded in 1979, presents between 20 - 30 exhibitions annually of regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized artists that explore topical issues in contemporary art and society, as well as symposia, lectures, and tours. The DCCA provides individual studios to more than 25 artists, who also exhibit regularly within its galleries and throughout the region. The DCCA presents a variety of educational and outreach programs, including programs that integrate the contemporary arts into the public school curriculum, and artists' residencies that feature collaboration with underserved community groups. The center is housed in a renovated industrial building at 200 South Madison St. in the heart of the rejuvenated Wilmington Riverfront.

DCCA gallery hours are:

10 am - 5 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Noon - 5 pm Wednesday and Sunday

Admission is FREE

200 South Madison Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

<http://www.thedcca.org>

302-656-6466

The DCCA is wheelchair-accessible; visitors with special needs are encouraged to call in advance.

DCCA exhibitions and programs are made possible, in part, through individual contributions; members support; major grants from AstraZeneca, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts; and by Amtrak – Official Transportation Provider for the DCCA.

**High Resolution images available upon request.**

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