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Massimo Vitali and Jehad Nga at M+B, LA



Los Angeles gallery **M+B** is showing two very different bodies of work this fall, one (Vitali) rooted in the fine art world and another (Nga) very much in the traditional documentary vein.

Italian photographer **Massimo Vitali** large-scale color photos of beach-goers will be the subject of his first Los Angeles exhibition. Using a large-format camera, Vitali captures beautiful shots of crowded European beaches. The amount of detail in the photographs is pretty astounding, and lends itself perfectly to the exhibition format. Also on display will be Vitali's never-before-seen shots of New York beaches.

M+B's other, perhaps more surprising show is a body of work by 30-year-old photojournalist **Jehad Nga**, who has spent much of the past few years covering war, poverty and famine in places like Darfur, Libya, and Iraq. M+B will be showing a series of color photographs Nga took of cafe patrons in Sudan and Kenya using only available light, often a single ray of sunlight streaming through the cafe door.

Kudos to M+B for taking a chance on a difficult body of work. This is exactly what galleries should be doing: showing great, saleable work by established stars (Vitali) while also introducing new artists to the unsuspecting gallery crowd. Nga probably won't make the gallery a ton of money, but it's nice to see work exploring important social issues in this context.