



April 2 2005. Vatican City, Rome. Italy © Paolo Pellegrin / Magnum Photos

## PAOLO PELLEGRIN As I Was Dying

Pellegrin's unique ability to capture humanity amidst the despair and suffering of war cumulates in this remarkable new exhibition, *As I Was Dying*. Pellegrin captures the horror of conflict and the anguish of those innocent victims of circumstance swept up in events beyond their control. His emotive images record the desperation of the displaced and the terror of those who witness the destruction of their homes and the death of their loved ones.

Featuring photographs from Lebanon, Haiti, Afghanistan and the funeral of Pope John Paul II, *As I Was Dying* is both an unflinching and memorable record of man's inhumanity to man and an exploration of our response to death.

Pellegrin says: "When I do my work and I am exposed to the suffering of others - their loss or, at times their death - I feel I am serving as a witness; that is my role and responsibility to create a record for our collective memory. Part of this, I believe, has to do with notions of accountability. Perhaps it is only in their moment of suffering that these people will be noticed, and noticing erases our excuse of saying one day that we did not know. But I also feel that it is in this very delicate and fragile space that surrounds death, the space that I sometimes have both the privilege and the burden of entering, there exists the possibility of an encounter with the other in a way that goes beyond words and culture and differences. It is about being exposed for a moment in front of each other and in front of the act and mystery of dying. In that moment I feel I am looking at something that I can't completely see but that is looking at me. It is in this exchange that something simultaneously universal and deeply intimate can be found; in the death of the other there is a loss that belongs to everyone."

Born in Rome, Paolo Pellegrin has an ability to traverse distinct subjects and themes within photography whilst maintaining an artistic eye for images that are both spare and dramatic. Renowned for his aptitude to immerse sympathetically into every situation, Pellegrin has created profound bodies of work including *As I Was Dying* and *Double Blind* which have won many awards. He became a full member of the prestigious Magnum Photo Agency in 2005, and is the recipient of numerous awards including eight World Press Photos, a Leica medal for excellence, the Robert Capa Gold medal and the W. Eugene Smith Grant for Humanistic Photography.

#### Recommended Reading:

*Magnum Magnum* (Thames & Hudson, 2007), *As I Was Dying* (Dewi Lewis Publishing, 2007), *Double Blind* (Trolley, 2007), *Magnum Stories* (Phaidon, 2004), *Kosovo 1999-2000* (Trolley, London, 2002), *Cambodia* (Federico Motta Editore, Milan, 1998)

See [www.magnumphotos.com](http://www.magnumphotos.com)

A Magnum touring exhibition

The images from this exhibition were printed with an HP Z3100 printer using Vivera inks

