



Invisible Heroines

Canadian photographer Sheila McKinnon takes a glimpse into the lives of the world's most marginalized women and girls.

Tiffany Parks has the details.

A moving new photography exhibition at the Museum of Rome in Trastevere, *Born Invisible* presents 50 images by acclaimed Canadian photographer Sheila McKinnon. The works shed light on the silent and invisible presence of the millions of girls and women around the world without voices, neglected beings whose lives are managed without their consent. Using a technique all her own, McKinnon uses each image to capture the struggle and situation of not just the photo's subject, but of thousands of others living in similar circumstances. McKinnon heightens and exaggerates the natural colors of each image to attract the attention of the viewer and bring each subject vibrantly to life within an inner frame. The use of color is the most fundamental element in McKinnon's photographs. It captivates the viewer and invites them to join the ongoing debate that is raging around the world about the rights

of girls and women, their role in the world, female sexuality, and gender equality. Although born in Canada, McKinnon has lived in Italy for much of her life. She has worked as a photographer and journalist around the globe for major international publications including *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Die Welt*, *Toronto Globe and Mail*, *Corriere della Sera*, *La Repubblica*, *Il Messaggero*, *People*, and many others. She has also worked with numerous humanitarian organizations, such as UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, Africare, and Aidos. *Born Invisible* is the fruit of a collaboration between McKinnon and Victoria Ericks, the ambassador in Italy for the non-profit organization Women for Women International, aiding women around the world with financial assistance, job training, education, awareness of their rights, assistance in opening small businesses, and post-traumatic counseling (p55).

Survey Goethe's Space

Corrections, a temporary exhibition by installation artist Via Lewandowsky, takes place at the Goethe House all month. Lewandowsky interprets the living space of German poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe during his sojourn in Italy by examining aspects of invisibility by disappearance, construction by deconstruction, simulation by illusionism, and aura and its disillusion (p55).

—K. C.

