

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

Cristina De Middel

Prostitution has traditionally been presented and explained focusing on those who sell their body. Whether it is to open the debate around the boundaries of women's rights or to insist on the condescending attribution of prostitution as the oldest profession (when there are doubts that it is even a profession and certainty that it is not the oldest), the truth is that it is a reality that is still half understood because the other half, the clients, has hardly been explained.

After decades of photographic documentation of brothels around the world, we know all the details of the crime involved and the sweating pores and nipples of the girls trapped in dirty rooms, but the faces and motivations of the clients are still a mystery. The logics of the sacred law of supply and demand seems to vanish for this specific business, like a miracle nobody cares about.

In 2015, in order to reach a better visual balance in the representation of sex work, I put an advert in a newspaper in Rio de Janeiro looking for clients who were willing to pose for me in exchange of money. To my surprise, many men responded, and these portraits and interviews became the first chapter of Gentlemen's Club: a visual index of sex work users around the world.

For 7 years, I traveled to the cities that have a link with the business to collect a total of 100 images and interviews in which the men share their motivations and opinions about paying for sex. The cities are Havana, Mexico City, Paris, Bangkok, Los Angeles, Lagos, Kabul, Amsterdam and Mumbai, some are well known for their sex tourism industry, others for their contribution to the romanticization of sex work or to show the cultural differences that impregnate this big global secret.

All the men were asked about their first experience, their motivations, their feelings and their opinions, and all the men were paid for their time and for sharing their privacy with an unknown person that is me.

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

CHARACTERISTICS

100 digital photographs printed on archival cotton paper 20x30 and mounted on printed descriptive panel. The whole exhibition set is packed in an custom made archival box.



GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

Limited Edition Portfolio

EXHIBITION DESIGN PROPOSAL

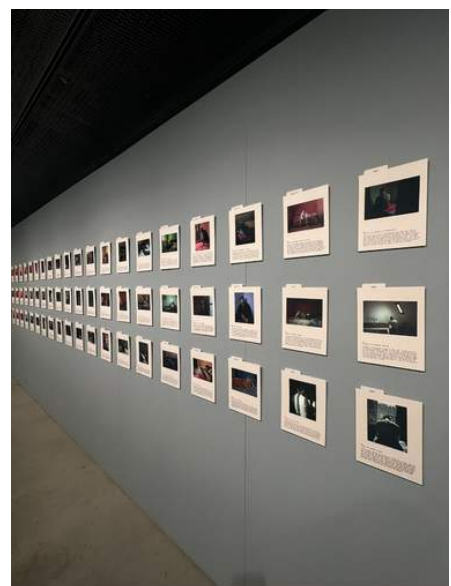
The installation of the series is flexible and can be adapted to different exhibition spaces.

Two options have been used so far:

1. **"Jetzt: Magnum Photos"** at Berlin Reinbeckhallen. Germany.

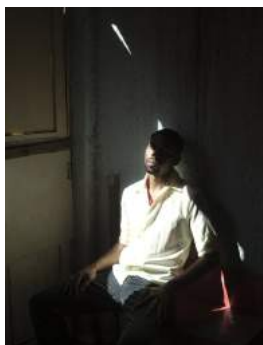


2. **"Close Enough. New Perspectives from 12 Women Photographers of Magnum"** at the International Center of Photography, NYC.



GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Rio de Janeiro



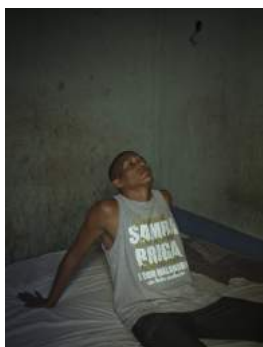
001-SILVIO



002-CHARLES



003-DANIEL



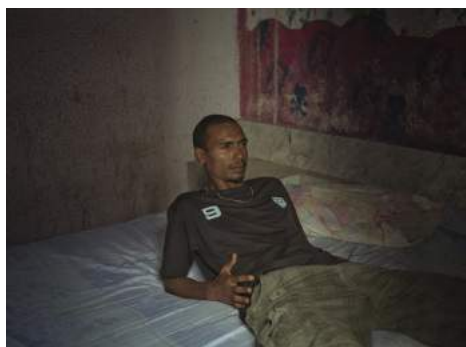
004-FELIPE



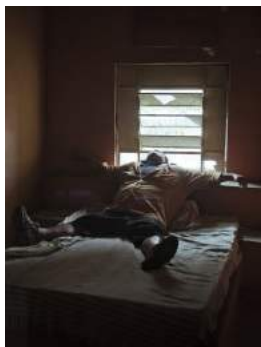
005-WALTER



006-MARCUS



007-ITALO



008-LUIS



009-MAGINÔ



010-NEWTON



011-HUGO

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Kabul



012-ABBAS



013-ARASH



014-ABDUL RAHIM



015-ABUZAR



016-SAMIM



017-SHADAB



018-SALAR



019-SHAH WALI

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Amsterdam



020-JIM



021-SEAN



022-ARNOLD



023-JACQUES



024-DAAN



025-WILLEM



026-PRIET



027-MICHAEL



028-SWITI



029-MATT

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Bangkok



030-NARES



031-ALESEI



032-EUGENY



033-LUNE



034-ANDREII



035-MUHAMMAD



036-PAISAN



037-SANGA



038-TOE



039-TU

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Havana



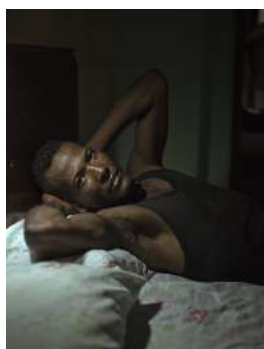
040-JAVIER



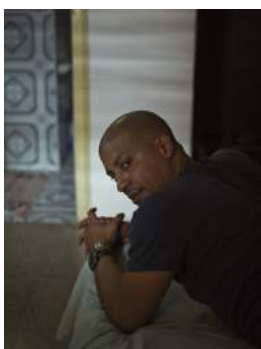
041-CARLOS



042-WILLIAM



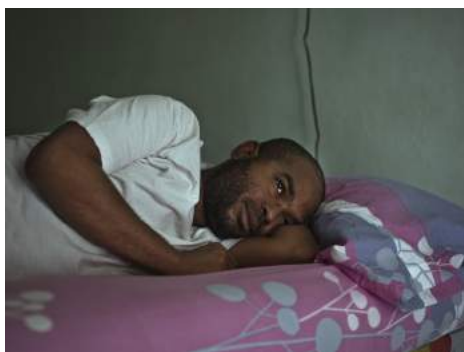
043-JORDANIS



044-WILLIAMM



045-JUNIEL



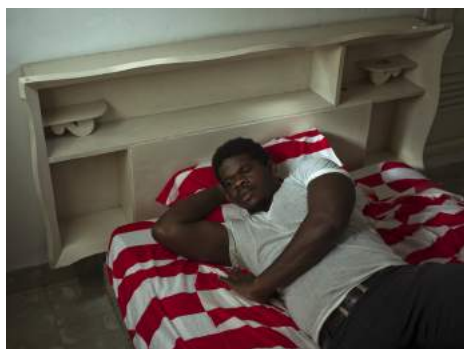
046-HELMAN



047-LEDIEL



048-OSMEL



049-RUBENS



050-YOANDRI

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Lagos



051-ADESHINA



052-ADEBOLA



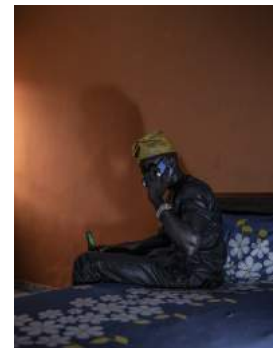
053-AKINDE



054-ADEKUNLE



055-FEYI



056-JAMES RAOUL



057-JIDE



058-ODENUSI



059-OGUNBIYI



060-SOPENANA



GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Mexico City



061-DIEGO



062-BETO



063-ELY



064-FERNANDO



065-GERARDO



066-JOSUÉ



067-JUAN MANUEL



068-MAUREL



069-SAMANTA



070-NORMAN

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

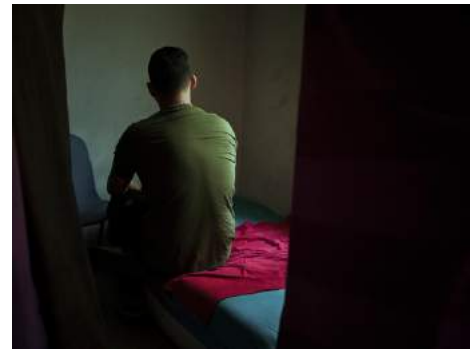
THE CLIENTS | Paris



071-NICOLAS



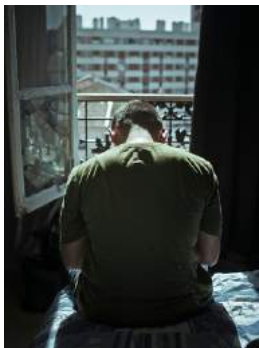
072-FRANCESCO



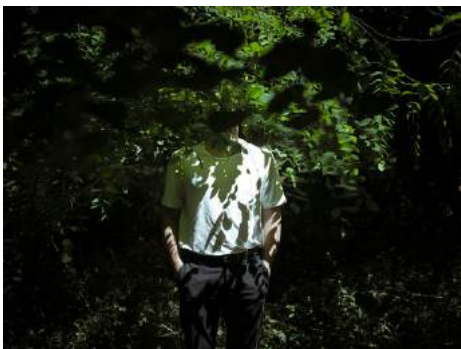
073-FABRIZIO



074-FRANÇOIS



075-CARLOS



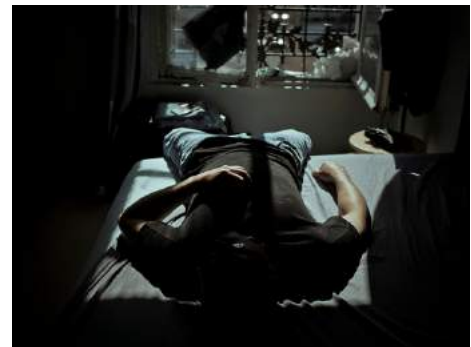
076-RAOUL



077-RADUAN



078-MARC



079-DANIEL

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Mumbai



081-AFZAL



082-SAMIULLAH



083-AAKASH



084-ABDUL JABBAR



085-FARUKH



086-JOHN



087-ZAKIR



088-VIJAY



089-NIRMAL



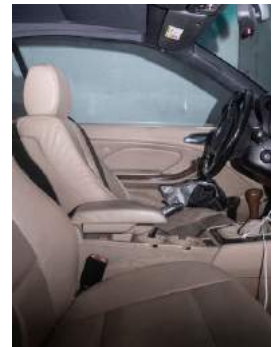
090-PRAVIN

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

THE CLIENTS | Los Angeles



091-DAVID



092-PHIL



093-EDGAR



094-BRANDON



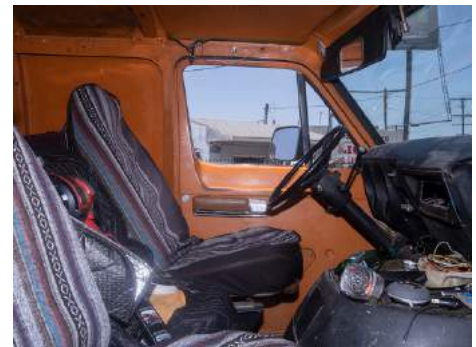
095-THEODORE



096-HECTOR



097-MARIO



098-JIM



099-NICK



100-EDWARD