An Afternoon with MARTI

SABHANAZ RASHID DIYA

There are many ways to introduce Marti. As a photojournalist and writer based in Paris (France) and Pondicherry (India), her works have been exhibited worldwide including London, Paris, Amsterdam, San Francisco, Tokyo, Phnom Penh and Chennai. She has been recently shown at the Chobi Mela V in Dhaka and selected for the Singapore International Photography Festival. Marti's works are also part of permanent collections, including the Musee de Louvre in Paris and the International Museum of Photography in Switzerland. On another level, Marti is a Penguin author and has published her work in books, newspapers and magazines including PHOTO Magazine, the New York Times, Washington Post, and le Monde-Guardian Weekly. She has won a Rolex citation for her environmental work and is a United Nations ECO SOC representative for NGO's in Geneva. She is particularly concerned about the dying oceans, disappearing nature, and the social conditions of children.

In person, Marti is warm, sociable and extremely energetic. The following is an excerpt from her interview at Drik, taken during Chobi Mela V.



Marti, photojournalist and writer.

Do you think photography is still largely a man's profession? How do you justify the role of female photojournalists in today's world?

It is unfortunate that photography is still seen in many parts of the world as a man's profession, but that is changing. It is true that women cannot, for example, go to the park at night in Dhaka without being accompanied and take photographs of drug addicts taking narcotics. However as a woman, you have the gift of entering into intimate situations more easily. Besides, the scenario has been changing over the last fifteen years. When I was in Cambodia, I was the only woman photographer around. Today there are many courageous women out there. I think one issue that comes up for women, however, is that of being responsible mothers. When I was in the Cambodian jungles, there were mines all over the place and I had to be careful. I had my small son at home and could not overlook my responsibility as a mother.

