

THE PRICE OF SEX

WORKS BY RENOWNED
DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER & PHOTOGRAPHER:
MIMI CHAKAROVA

Exhibition curated by Liu Scholars & doctoral candidates,
Blake Smith & Miriam Matejova.

OPENING: FRIDAY OCT 13th [6:30-10pm] @ Liu Institute
PUBLIC RECEPTION & FREE FILM SCREENING [@ 7:15pm] FOR
CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED, AWARD-WINNING
DOCUMENTARY FILM *The Price of Sex* | Followed by panelist
discussion/Q&A with Peter Klein, Nicole Barrett, & Patricia Leidl

Rsvp on [Eventbrite](#) & see Liu Institute Events Calendar for more info:
<https://liu.arts.ubc.ca/events/>

*Content may be distressing to some viewers as this series & film address
sex trafficking of young women. May be more suitable for mature audiences.*

This exhibition is graciously supported and sponsored by The Liu Institute for Global Issues for the Lobby Gallery.

Special thanks to the artist, Mimi Chakarova, and at UBC to The Global Reporting Centre, Dr. Peter Klein, Marina Favaro, Ashley Nicholson, and the students who volunteered their time to help us hang the show: Connor Kelly, Logan Underwood, and Janani Rangarajan.

About the Global Reporting Centre:

The Global Reporting Centre (GRC) is a non-profit journalism organization dedicated to highlighting complex and neglected stories around the world. We bring together leading journalists, academics and major media organizations, to create long-term collaborations on issues like human rights, environmental sustainability, Indigenous issues and global health.

One of GRC's collaborators, Mimi Chakarova, focuses her documentary work on issues of corruption, conflict and the sex trade. She donated the entire collection of her award-winning photography series *The Price of Sex* to UBC, with the goal of having the Global Reporting Centre utilize it to advance discussions and research on the complex issue of global sex trafficking.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
School of Public Policy and Global Affairs



LIU INSTITUTE FOR
GLOBAL ISSUES



Artist Biography | *Mimi Chakarova*

See <http://www.mclight.com/> & <http://priceofsex.org/>

Mimi Chakarova is an award-winning Bulgarian-American documentary filmmaker and photographer who spent the past 15 years reporting global issues examining conflict, corruption, and the global sex trade. She grew up in a village in communist Bulgaria and came to the United States at the age of 13. Chakarova's documentary projects focus on women who have overcome war, abuse, and economic degradation. Journalism and art for Chakarova have been a duty – a responsibility to return to what she has left behind and bring it back to the world. Fulfilling this duty, she went undercover as a prostitute in Turkey to gain unprecedented access to women and traffickers of the Eastern European sex trade. In 2011 she produced the critically-acclaimed documentary film and photo series, *The Price of Sex*, which premiered in New York, NY at the Human Rights Watch Film Festival and was awarded the 2011 Nestor Almendros Award for courage in filmmaking.

Among her many accolades, Chakarova is the winner of the prestigious Daniel Pearl Award for Outstanding International Investigative Reporting, a 2012 Dart Awards Finalist for Excellence in Coverage of Trauma, recipient of the Dorothea Lange Fellowship for outstanding work in documentary photography, and the Magnum Photos Inge Morath Award for her work on sex trafficking. Chakarova taught visual storytelling at University of California Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism for 14 years and has taught at Stanford University's African and African American Studies and Comparative Studies for Race and Ethnicity as well as lectured extensively at universities world-wide. Mimi received her BFA in Photography from the San Francisco Art Institute and her MA in Visual Studies from UC Berkeley. She has had numerous solo exhibitions of her documentary projects on South Africa, Jamaica, Cuba, Kashmir, and Eastern Europe.

We are honored to exhibit her beautiful and important work.

Artist Statement:

THE PRICE OF SEX

The Price of Sex, a project that took nearly a decade to complete, is a photo reportage and documentary film about women in Eastern Europe who fell through the cracks of migration. Like Chakarova, these women grew up under a restrictive communist regime but secretly hungered for opportunities in the West. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 offered these opportunities for many vulnerable and uneducated Eastern European women who lacked the necessary skills to survive in the new capitalist reality. As a result, countless fell prey to traffickers. These girls, some still teenagers, became a commodity to be sold, exploited, and discarded. Some call them foolish prostitutes—poor girls duped with promises for work abroad, instead sold to pimps in brothels and sex clubs; others call them sex slaves—victims of brutal, irreversible circumstances. Over time, Chakarova found survivors and produced this photography project, which serves as a testament to the courage and willingness of these women to expose the darkest and most haunting inner-workings of sexual slavery.

The *Price of Sex* aims to strip away the fear and shame that keeps so many survivors of sexual slavery quiet. This silence perpetuates the vicious cycle of human trafficking. After spending years investigating and exposing the inner workings of the global sex trade, Chakarova hopes what she captured will reveal a deeper understanding of this disturbing industry and offer an outlet for change. By peeling away the layers that hide this slavery from plain sight, the viewers of this series become witnesses—no longer unaware or complacent.