

# ALEX ELENA

PHOTOGRAPHY

# INTRODUCTION

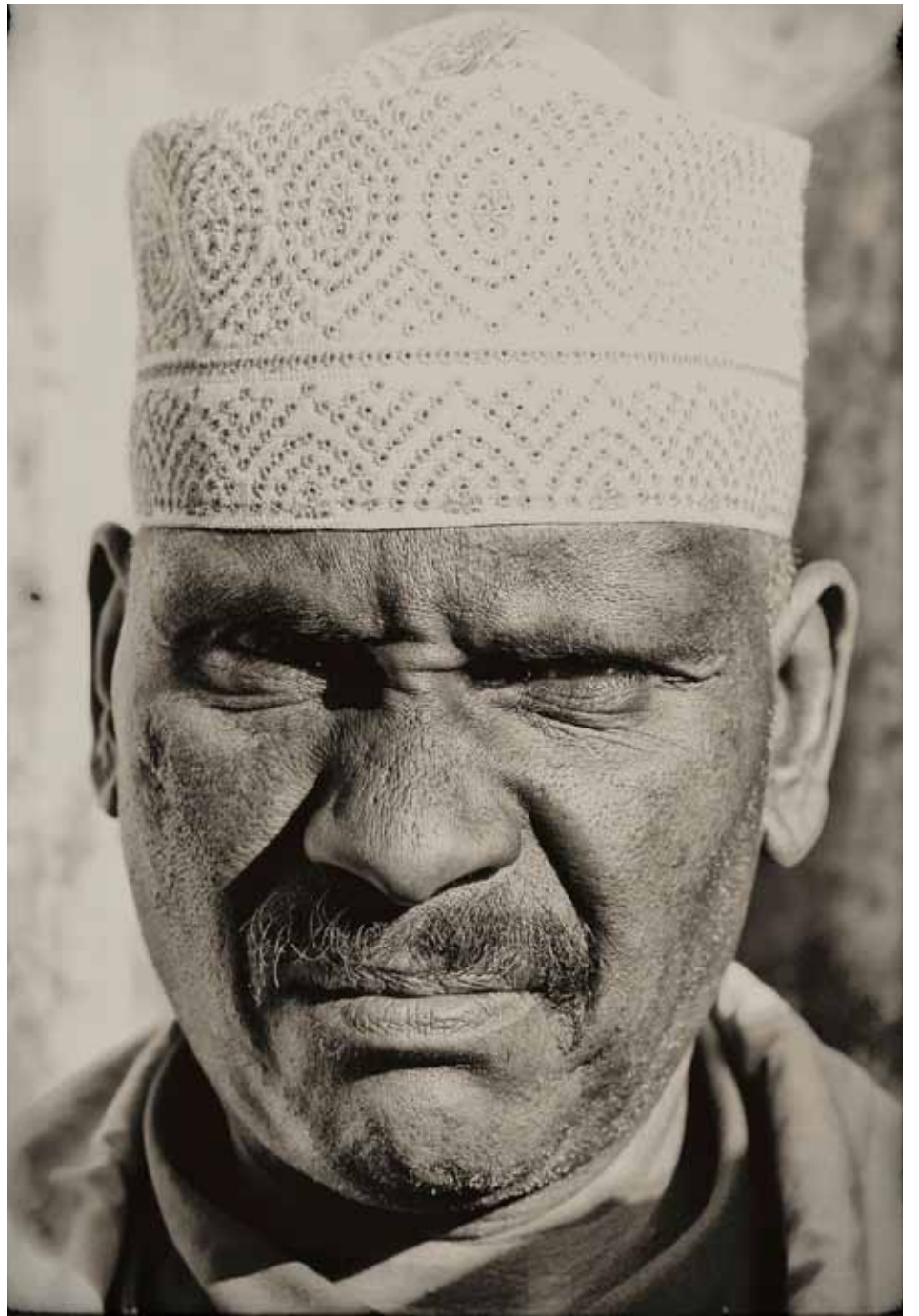
Alex Elena was born and raised in Rome into a family of musicians and artists. He began at a very young age as a drummer, playing professionally from the age of 17. Later, he began producing music, landing a Grammy nomination for the soul singer Alice Smith.

Alex's work evolved to include photography in 2009, when a sudden decision to create a portrait of the Darien Strip took him to Panama. His father was his first creative mentor in music, but regarding photography, he is completely self-taught. He's photographed a range of subjects spanning the globe from the slums of Kenya, everyday life in The Gambia, the vanishing Indigenous tribes in Central America, to the aftermath of the war in the former Yugoslavia.

His book of photography entitled *A Mission In Panama* was installed as a multimedia event in London and Rome. All proceeds from the sales of this work were donated to charity for the preservation of the Indigenous cultures of Central America.

Alex currently lives in Los Angeles.



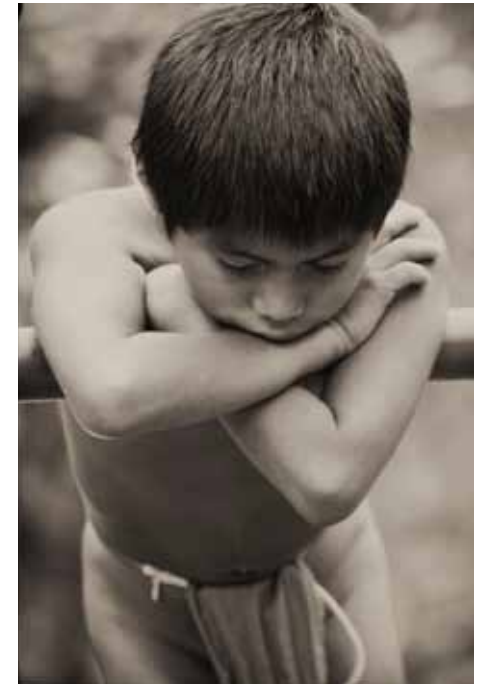


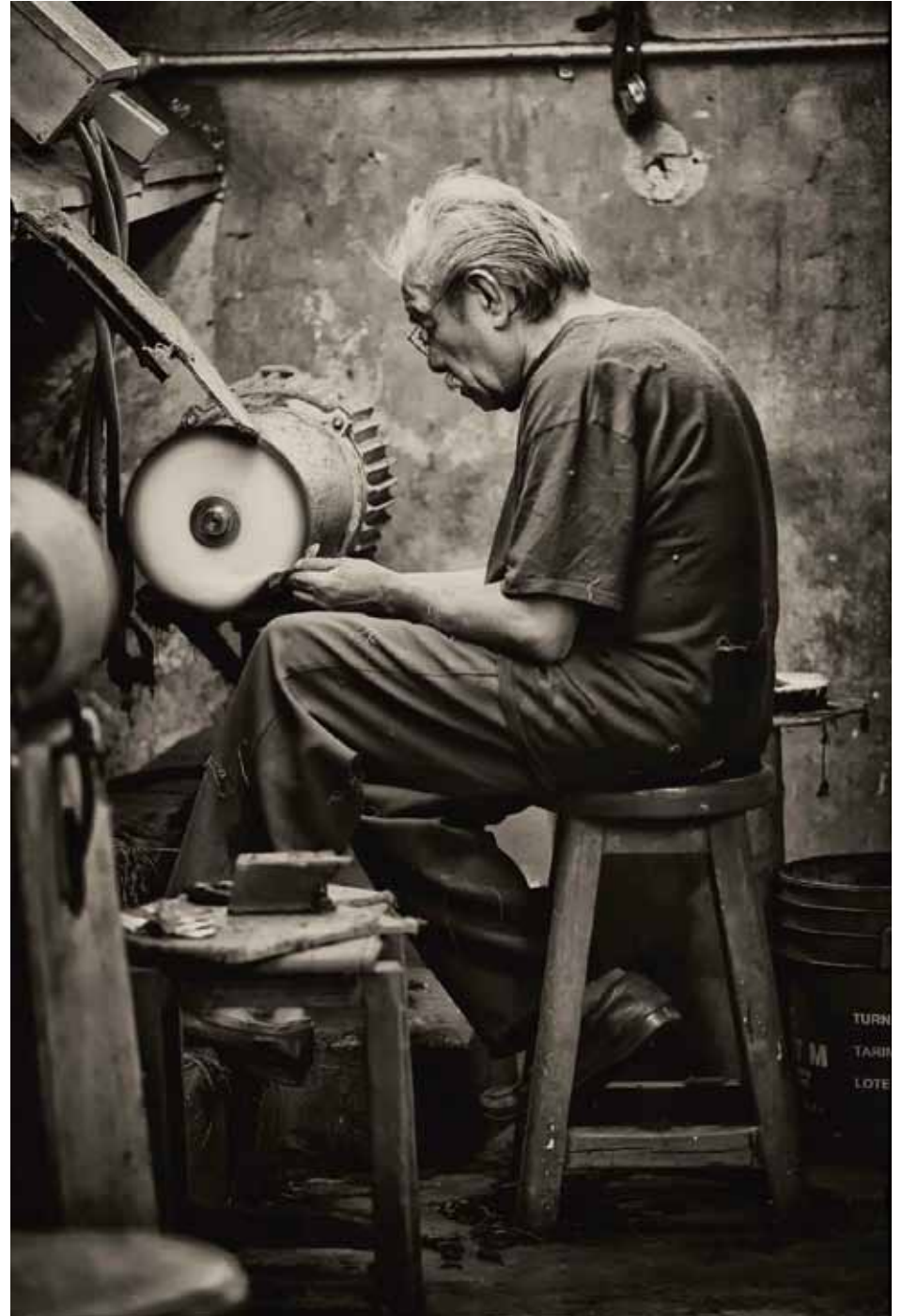






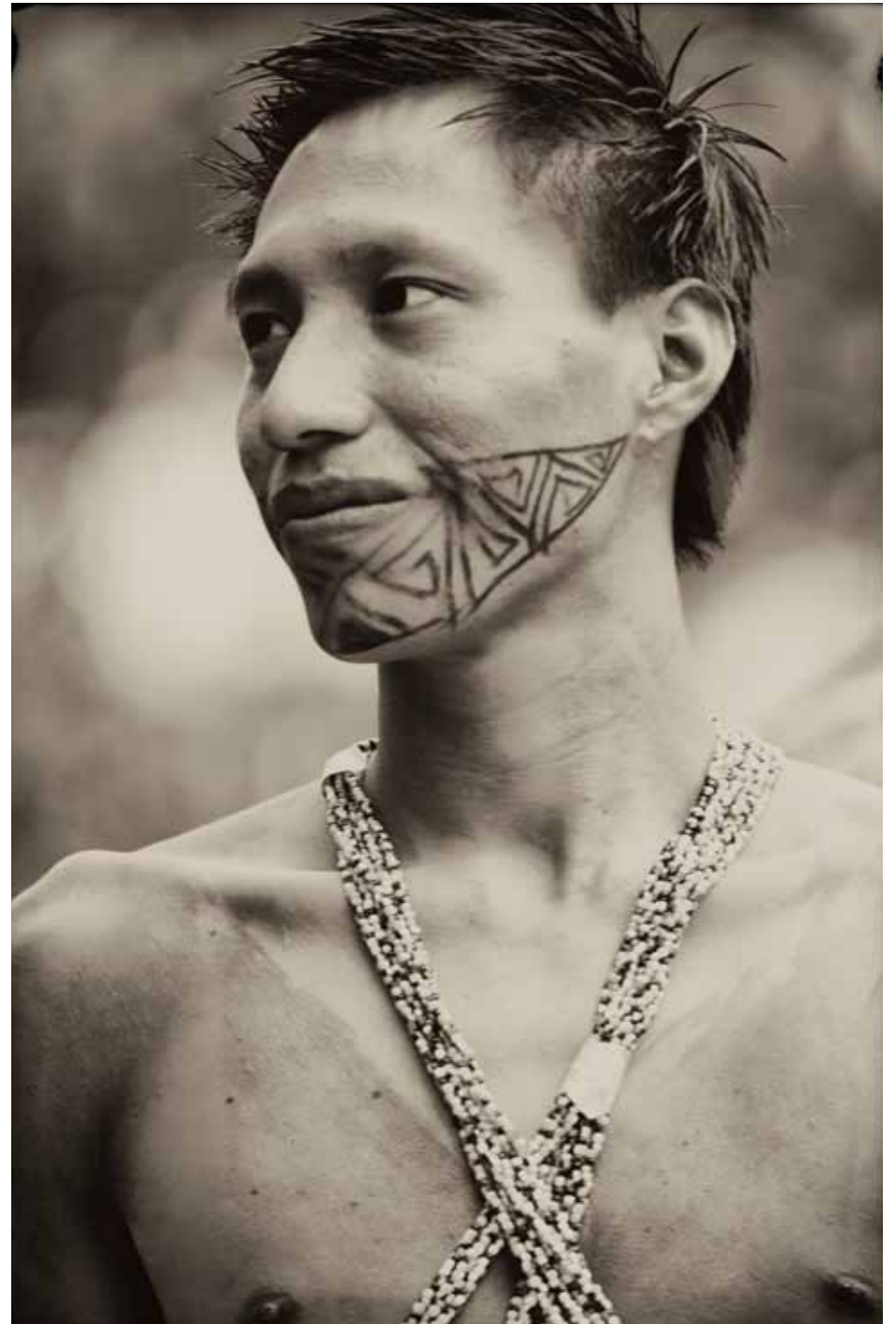




































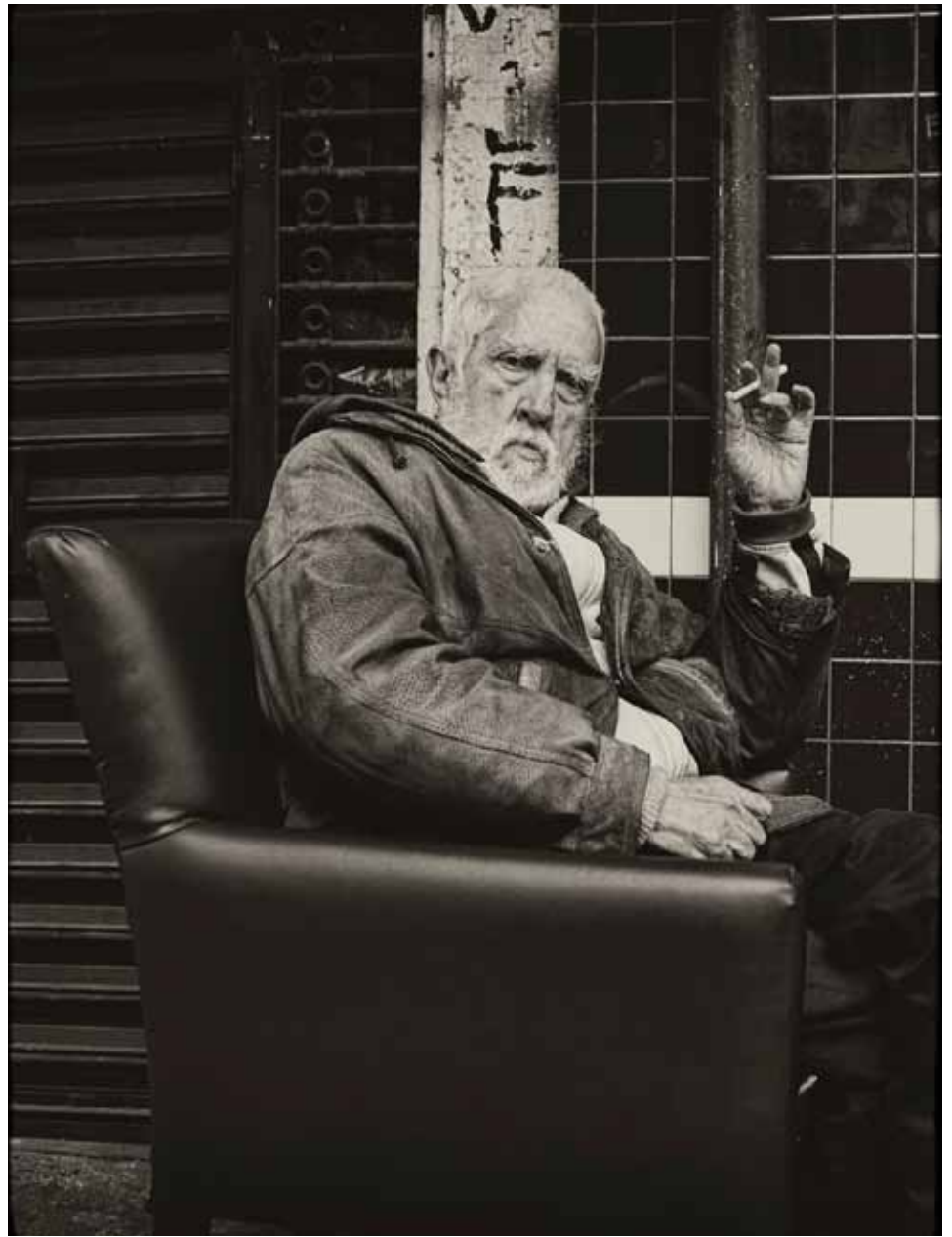






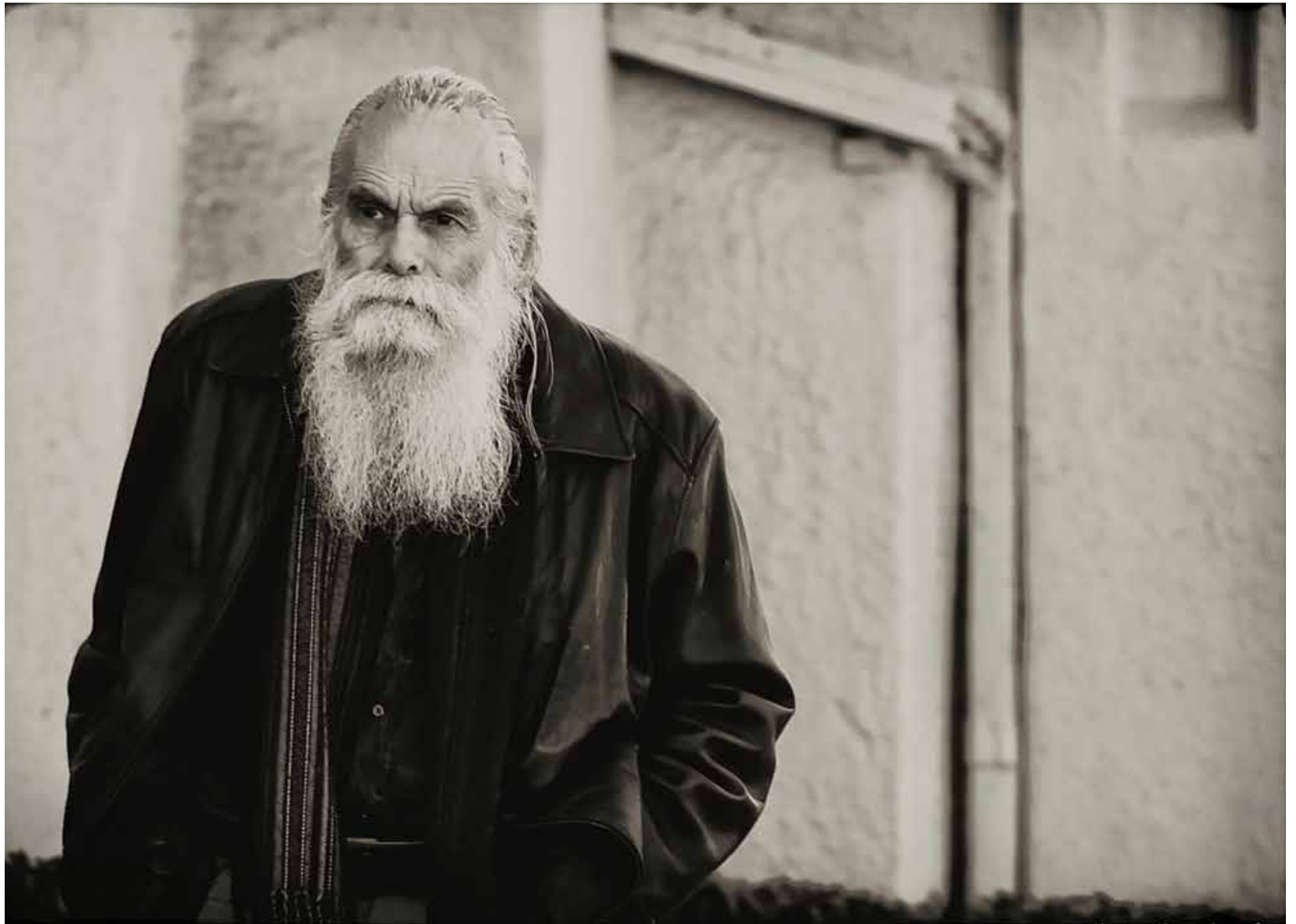


















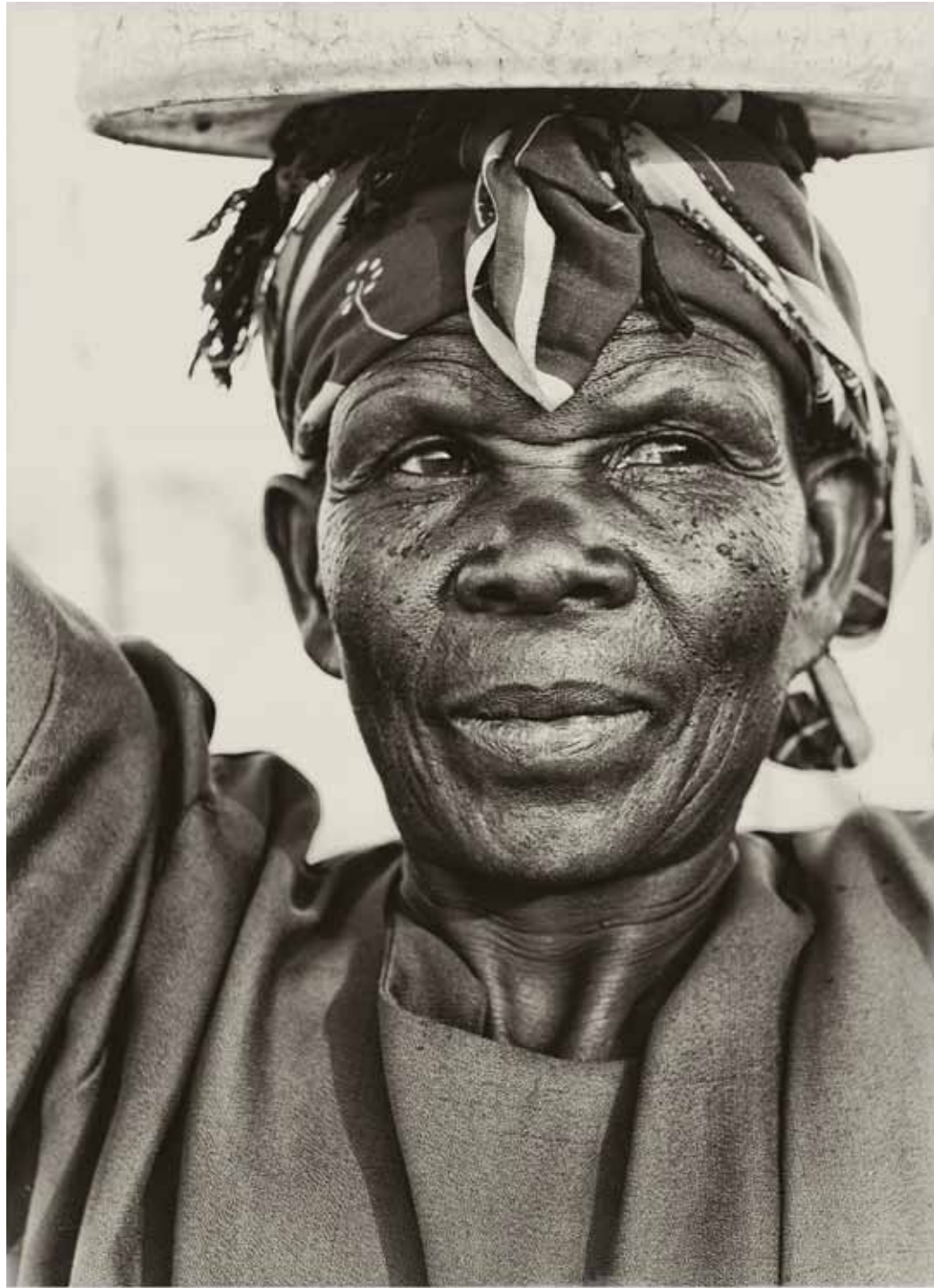






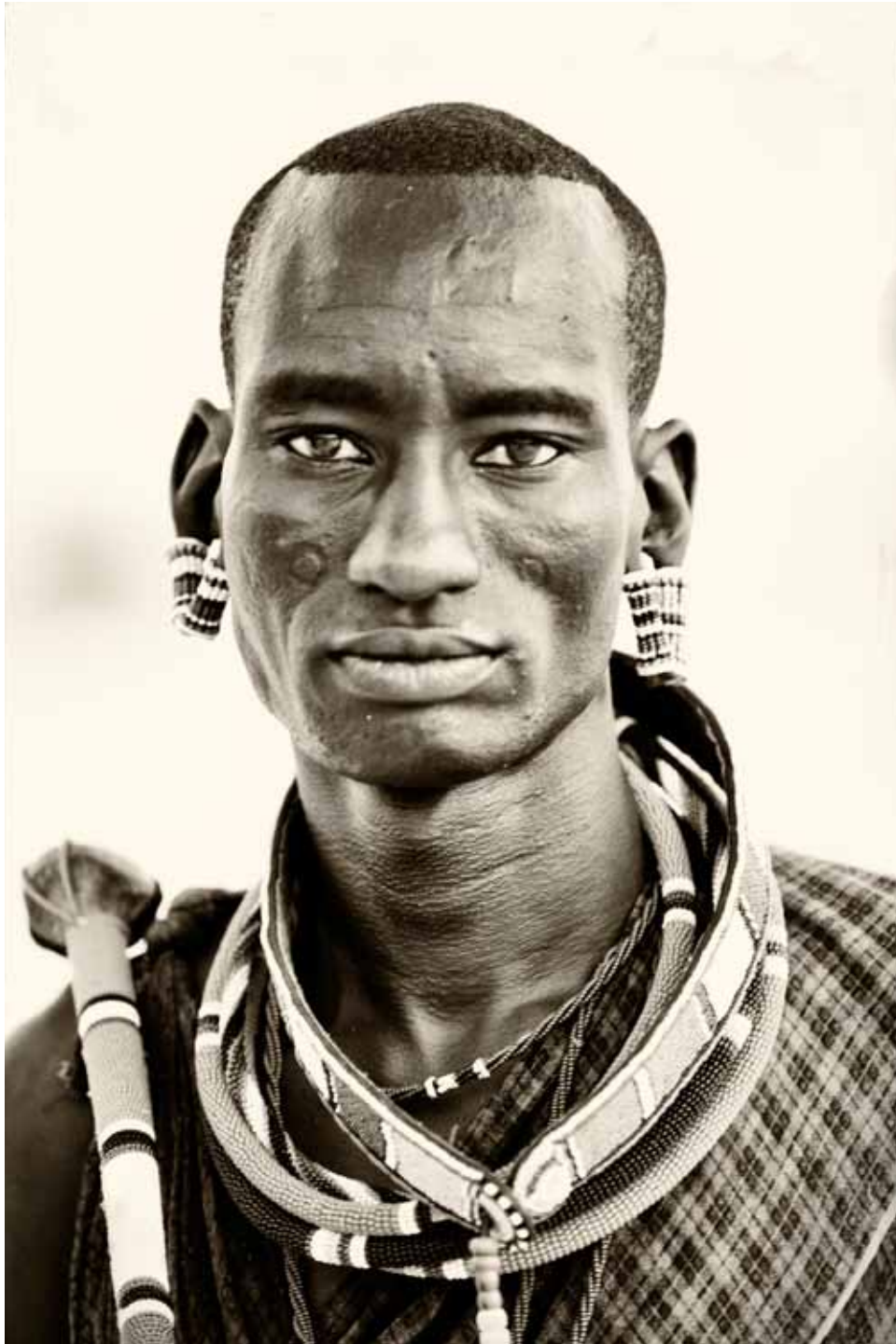














# **SARAJEVO**

## **20 Years after the Siege**

The war in Bosnia has quickly become a forgotten theater. Few today know the facts which led to the conflict, and for most people, it was a remote place, and a remote conflict. It became a tedious story, relegated to second rate newspapers and an occasional mention on news channels. Once the 'shock and awe' visuals of Yugoslavia's fall had been seen, the story was, again, something the world and many politicians would rather forget. The few war crimes arrests and trials that actually occurred barely made the news.

What the majority of the world has failed to understand is that this region, which Bosnia is part of, has been the tinderbox to regional and worldwide conflicts for hundreds of years. This is why it is crucial to understand its relevance: History has taught us the dangers of instability in this fragile region, where Christians and Muslims live side by side at the meeting point of East and West. The war came to an end 20 years ago, but it has not been forgotten by the many souls that were sucked into the international quagmire this conflict actually was. It thus becomes of paramount importance to NEVER FORGET for as Voltaire said, "History never repeats itself. Man always does."

Alex was in Bosnia in 1994 during the height of the war, an experience which forever changed his life. He went to perform music with Bruce Dickinson (Iron Maiden's frontman) for the besieged people of Sarajevo. To get there, they had to cross the frontline from Croatia into Bosnia without protection. That journey is now being turned into a documentary. 20 years later, Alex went back to Sarajevo to photograph the scars of war as well as the new generations that were born during and after the conflict.













































# THE GAMBIA

A journey along the Gambia river from Banjul to Kunta Kinte Island  
with artist Chaz Guest and actor Ben Vereen.

This project is a work in progress and will be completed in 2016.









