

The Worlds Greatest Gatherer by Ezequiel Suranyi

"My work is not about convincing you to like football, but to accept the fact that football is bigger than you."

Artist Reception & Advance Viewing 17th April 6-8pm

RSVP: 0207 318 1300 or argentine-embassy-uk.org

18TH APRIL - 11TH MAY

Monday to Friday 10:00 - 13:00 / 14:00 - 1700

Argentine Embassy - 65 Brook Street - London - W1K 4AH

The Argentine Embassy presents the works of Ezequiel Suranyi in 'The Worlds Greatest Gatherer'. A photographic journey documenting the world's most important and influential social gatherer - FOOTBALL.

Ezequiel Suranyi not only highlights the passion and die-hard approach of fans inside the stadium but unlike very few before him, he also manages to encapsulate the atmosphere and essence that surrounds a game throughout a match day. Whether it be the sea of passionate River Plate and Boca Juniors fans during the Buenos Aires derby, a Spurs fan watching on as Arsenal win the Premiership at White Hart Lane (which was of course signed by smiling Arsene Wenger) or the Argentine and Serbia & Montenegro fans during Euro 2006 awaiting the train from the AufSchalke Arena in Gelsenkirchen, oblivious to the fact that the same platform was used to transport thousands of Jewish people to the Nazi concentration camps. Ezequiel tells the story.

Brought up in an Argentine household that lived, breathed and slept football Ezequiel harboured the dream of wearing the red and white of River Plate's Millionarios. Unfortunately this wasn't to be and Ezequiel opted to follow his other passion - photography. In 2001 he came to London to study at the prestigious Central Saint Martins School of Art. When he met Japanese artist Takeshi Nomura early on in his studies they discovered their mutual love of all things football; Ezequiel finally saw the possibility of fusing his love of both photography and football.

So in 2003, Ezequiel and Takeshi forged a partnership not too dissimilar to a 'good forward' pair and set out on a journey around the globe trying to capture the essence of football. Ezequiel let his lens lead the way documenting rival hardcore fans in Croatia, Maradona showing his talents on a visit to Britain and the sadness and joy of Arsenal fans as they made the transition from Highbury to the Emirates. Ezequiel captured both the hopes and expectations that followed national fans into the 2002 and 2006 World cups, and of course no Journey would be complete without highlighting the dedication and passion within the lower end of the football food chain – the Sunday league footballer.

Whilst largely undiscovered outside of the football sphere, his talents are finally being recognized having been recently commissioned by Konami's for the recent launch of their world renowned Pro Evolution 6 at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium. However, for the first time since his journey began, Ezequiel Suranyi brings all his work under one roof at the Argentine Embassy for all to see.

"Oh my, this is football. This IS football. My mother, la Tota, who knows more about football than all of us put together, would look at this and tell you: this, is what football is about. I want it in my living room." -Diego Maradona, May 2006 when seeing 'Mar de Gente' (the sea of River & Boca fans) for the first time.



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