

Sadegh Tirafkan (Iran, 1965)

Tirafkan employs different media in his work: photography, video installation, and collage. He graduated from Tehran University with a degree in Photography in 1989 and has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions worldwide.

Tirafkan's work includes "Manhood", which deals with the perception of masculinity in Persian culture. Other projects such as "Persepolis", "Ashoura", "Secret of Words" , "Iranian Man", "Whispers of the East", "The Loss of Our Identity", "Multitude" and "Devotion" deal with Iranian history, identity, sociopolitical, religious and gender issues.

"From 2006 I have been focusing on population and its unbalanced distribution around the world within my works. I don't only look at the topic from a political aspect but also and most importantly from an artist's eye – an eye which originates from a thousand year old culture, rich with history and civilization.

I have been trying to combine current events with layered and hidden historical art, using new technology in order to ease communication between people living in today's world and my work.

In my project, I have platformed and emphasized the population issue as it is faced in today's Iran. I am also considering humankind's behavior in different situations. My goal is to demonstrate that all people regardless of gender, culture and religion are indeed looking for inner peace and sanctity.

The carpet is emblematic of Persian culture. It is a symbol of culture, seasonality, richness, diversity and continuity- in time and in history. As such I have been obsessed by the parallelism and marriage between this symbolic, intricately loomed object and the people to which it belongs." S.T

Born in Iran in 1965, Tirafkan trained as a photographer at the University of Fine Arts in Tehran. Since the late 1980s, he has participated in numerous solo exhibitions and group shows, primarily in Tehran and Paris.

His works are in the collections of several museums including the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, British Museum, Brooklyn Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Selective biography

Solo exhibitions

2010 Selma Feriani + Louise Alexander Gallery, "Human Tapestry", London, UK
 2008 Assar Art gallery, Tehran, Iran
 2007 Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 2006 Lee Ka-Sing gallery, Toronto, Canada
 2006 Aspace Gallery, Toronto, Canada
 2006 Massoud Nader Gallery, New York, USA
 2005 Espace photography Contretype, Brussels, Belgium
 2005 VU Photography Centre Quebec City, Canada
 2005 Assar Art gallery, Tehran, Iran
 2004 Lehmann maupin Gallery, New York, USA
 2003 VU Gallery, Paris, France
 2002 Massoud Nader Gallery, New York, USA
 2002 Parkerson Gallery, Houston, USA
 2001 Seyhoun Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 2000 Seyhoun Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 1997 Seyhoun Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 1995 Seyhoun Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 1991 Seyhoun Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
 1989 Mansoureh Hossini Gallery, Tehran Iran

Group exhibitions

2010 Martin Gropius Bau, Taswir, Berlin, Germany
 2009 Osborne Samuel Gallery, London, UK
 2009 Chelsea Art Museum, Iran Inside Out, NYC, USA
 2009 British Museum, London, UK
 2008 Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA
 2007 Contemporary Art Platform, In Focus, London, UK
 2007 Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
 2006 Total Arts gallery, Dubai, UAE
 2006 Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Australia
 2006 Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, Hawaii
 2005 Art after Revolution, San Sebastian, Spain
 2004 LEE Ka-sing gallery, Toronto, Canada
 2004 Musulmanes, Musulmans, La Villette Museum, Paris (France) and also in Cairo (Egypt), Tehran (Iran), Istanbul (Turkey), Paris (France) and Dakar (Senegal)
 2004 The Fifth International Month of Photography in Moscow, Russia
 2003 Group show, Unique(s), VU Gallery, Paris, France
 2003 Group show, Arta Gallery, The Distillery, Toronto, Canada
 2002 'Mémoires de Pierres', Musée municipal des Beaux-arts de Fréjus, France
 2002 20 Years of photography in Iran, 40 Iranian photographers, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran
 2001 5th Aleppo Photo Festival, Syria
 2001 20 Years of photography in Iran, 40 Iranian photographers, Espace Electra, Paris, France
 1996 Five Iranian photographers, Paris, France
 1988-1989 First and second Iranian Annual photography Festival, Museum of contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran

Conceptual art exhibitions

- 2005 "Lighting The Nation Gate", Photo, Video installation, Assar Art gallery Tehran, Iran
- 2002 Second exhibition of Conceptual Art, Secret of Words, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Iran
- 2002 Zagreb museum, Iranian Contemporary Art Exhibition, Zagreb, Croatia
- 2001 First exhibition of conceptual Art, Tehran museum of contemporary Art, Ashura installation with a collaboration with an Iranian contemporary painter, Tehran, Iran
- 2001 UNESCO center, Ashura installation pictures, video & painting
With a collaboration with an Iranian contemporary painter - Beirut, Lebanon
- 2000 The Children of Dark city, Installation & video, Painting, Sculpture

Film & Video

- 2006-7 "Whispers of the East", Tehran, Iran
- 2004 "Sacrifice" Art Video, Tehran, Iran
- 2002 "Stages" Art Video, Tehran, Iran
- 2000- 2006 "Ashura" Art video, Tehran, Iran
- 2000 "Untitled" Short video about Tehran's air pollution, Tehran, Iran
- 1997 "Persopolis" Video installation, Tehran, Iran

Public collection

- 2008, Brooklyn Museum, NYC, USA
- 2008, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
- 2007, British Museum, London, UK
- 2003, Maison Europeenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
- 2001, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran

Books & Catalogues

- 2008 Iranian Photography Now, London, UK
- 2006 Créations artistiques contemporaines en pays d'Islam : des arts en tensions by J. Dakhli, Published by Kime Paris, France
- 2006 Iranian Man, published by La Lettre volée in Brussels, Belgium
- 2005 Art after Revolution, published by Koldo Mitxelena Kulturunea in San Sebastian, Spain
- 2004 Catalogue from Musulmanes, Musulmans in Cairo, Tehran, Istanbul, Paris and Dakar, La Villette Museum, Paris , France
- 2003 Sadegh Tirafkan - Photographe, Paris, France, Edition de L'oeil
- 2002 Memoires de Pierre, Group Photographers, Agence pour le Patrimoine Antique
- 2002 Iranian Contemporary Art, Group show , Christie's , London, UK
- 1998 Co-operating with Photographers International for the publishing of Iranian photography special issue from June 1998 to Feb. 1999. Taipei, Taiwan

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