

different samās

New Perspectives in
Contemporary Iranian Art



Editor
Hossein Amirsadeghi

Essays
Hamid Keshmirshakar

Mark Irving

Anthony Downey

Different Sames

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Editor: Hossein Amirsadeghi

With essays by Hamid Keshmirshekan,
Mark Irving and Anthony Downey

Long considered a bastion of creativity in the region, Iran is currently experiencing a remarkable artistic revival in the middle of the most challenging of circumstances. Iranian artists – whether based inside or outside the country – are creating remarkable works that reflect their country's social and political environment, while incorporating their own personal worldviews and those of their adopted homelands. Seen together, these works form a new and exciting movement that can only gain in importance in the coming years.

Different Sames: New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art catalogues this new movement, capturing its brilliance and creative energy. Packed with wonderful images, it is an important and lively compendium of thought-provoking essays, historical context and profiles of the leading artists, whether well-established (such as Parviz Tanavoli and Monir Farmanfarmaian), internationally recognized (such as Shirin Neshat, Y. Z. Kami or Mitra Tabrizian), or emerging (such as Ali Banisadr or Tala Madani). Exclusive interviews with the key artists, collectors and curators offer fascinating new insights, and allow the book to explore the differences and similarities between current international movements in art and the art produced both in Iran and by artists of the Persian Diaspora.

Art changes the way we look at the world, and *Different Sames* is an attempt to explain today's Iranian art movement in this spirit.

With 586 illustrations

On the jacket:

front

Timo Nasser

Epistrophy #1, 2008

Polished stainless steel, 150 x 150 x 100 cm

© Timo Nasser, courtesy galerie schleicher+lange, Paris

back

Mehdi Farhadian

Twins, 2008

Acrylic on canvas, 190 x 150 cm

© Mehdi Farhadian, private collection, London

For Ali Asghar Amirsadeghi
Father, salt of the earth

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previous page
Hassan Sarbakhshian
From the 'Daily Life' series
Photograph
© Hassan Sarbakhshian
Courtesy of Hassan Sarbakhshian and
Silk Road Gallery, Tehran



above:
Untitled, 2008
 Acrylic and mirror on printed board
 120 x 120 cm
 © Samira Alikhanzadeh
 Courtesy of Samira Alikhanzadeh and
 the Assar Art Gallery, Tehran

Born in Iran in 1967, Samira Alikhanzadeh studied first at the Alzahra University, and then took a Master of Fine Arts at Azad University, Tehran, which she completed in 1998. Today she exhibits regularly in Tehran, and has taken part in group exhibitions internationally.

Alikhanzadeh's earlier paintings depicted windows and frames, reflecting an obsession with light effects; however, one day, stumbling on a box of old photographs, she began to incorporate these new elements. Today her works are populated by children and women from the past, nameless faces dressed in long-gone fashions. Another common tactic in her works is the use of shards of mirror, which are employed to partially incorporate the viewer into the piece, encouraging them to think about their own identity or heritage. The overall impression is one of melancholy, of time passing.

right
Untitled, 2007
 Acrylic and print on board
 Diptych 180 x 150 cm
 Private collection, London





Untitled, 2008
Acrylic and mirror on printed board
100 x 130 cm
© Samira Alikhanzadeh
Courtesy of Samira Alikhanzadeh and
the Assar Art Gallery, Tehran