

Qajar Reinterpreted ISIM,

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Qajar Reinterpreted



The old sepia finish of the photographs shown here evokes the impression of something outmoded. In them, Ghadirian plays with a juxtaposition of modernity and tradition. But there is further ground to these images. Modern identity is a lens through which life in Iran is depicted. The tension evolving from the distance between the photographer's perspective (modern identity) and the photographed subject (traditional identity) is strained with an irony that leaves the viewer with a feeling of joy, rather than resignation.

HEIKE GATZMAGA FOR THE HOUSE OF WORLD CULTURES

Shadi Ghadirian is representative of the young intellectuals and avant-garde artists of Iran at the beginning of the 21st century. She studied photography and was influenced by the most liberal and creative of minds while even so she also worked in an environment in which she was required to participate actively in the acquisition of religious knowledge. From this situation emerges a body of work imbued with paradoxes.



Qajar Series by Shadi Ghadirian, 1999

Shadi Ghadirian has been one of the contributors to the exhibition Far near Distance: Contemporary Positions of Iranian Artists, House of World Cultures, Berlin, 19 March – 9 May 2004. For more information please consult http://www.hkw.de.