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## Qajar Reinterpreted

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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, 1999

**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>.*