



# SURVIVANTS

18 AVRIL — 3 MAI 2012

oeuvres contemporaines de 6 artistes iraniens

AMIR FARHAD VAHID JAFARNEJAD YASSER MIRZAEI HOUMAN MORTAZAVI SADEGH TIRAFKAN  
ALI NADJIAN & RAMYAR MANOUCHEHRZADEH



Le survivant est un outsider. Il est d'ici mais ne vient pas d'ici. Il est contemporain, mais pas d'aujourd'hui. Il est familier mais pas un d'entre nous. Le survivant est un outsider.

« Survivant » est un thème controversé. Une personne née au Moyen-orient restera toujours un survivant tout au long de sa vie. Un survivant de siècles de domination religieuse et politique. Un survivant des guerres qui éclatent, guerre de pétrole ou d'idéologie et guerre de tradition contre modernité. Ma génération est la survivante de combats de rue, une lutte de liberté sur la domination de conventions et de lois. En même temps, l'artiste iranien est un survivant des conflits entre traditions occidentales et orientales, un orient qui n'en vaut plus, et un occident qui le considère comme un outsider.

Mon travail est d'illustrer ce combat pour l'existence. C'est d'exprimer sur un morceau de papier, ces inimités qui demandent la paix plus que la guerre. Je veux tout en même temps. Ces choses apparaissent dans mes œuvres comme des masses défigurés qui fusionnent les unes dans les autres. Je ne suis pas seul ici. Il existe un monde entier de survivants vivant ici avec moi. Survivant n'est pas un concept vague, mais simplement très complexe.

Je suis un outsider qui ne crie pas ; je murmure simplement.

Amir Farhad Avril 2012

En choisissant la « survie » comme thème pour cette exposition, Endjavi-Barbé a réuni des artistes provenant de la scène actuelle de l'art contemporain en Iran. Trois générations d'artistes qui comme leurs prédécesseurs maîtrisent l'art de l'expression de soi, sans s'engager dans des tendances socio-politiques. Appartenant tous à la génération post-révolution, ces artistes ont survécu à toutes les épreuves de la vie d'un artiste iranien, tout en développant leur propre style.

Dans tout paysage social, politique et géographique agité, l'expression de soi peut avoir des conséquences lourdes et indésirables et, pourtant, depuis des siècles les artistes iraniens ont soigneusement développé leur propre approche de « l'expression de soi » de manière pluridimensionnelle, indirecte et sophistiquée.

A travers les guerres, les conflits, les confrontations, la privation et des bouleversements constants, le trait distinctif de presque tous les iraniens est peut-être leur étonnant degré de conscience sur les événements qui les entourent. Leur approche indirecte et parfois passive agressive leur servant simultanément d'instinct de survie.

« Survivants » propose des photographies de Sadegh Tirafkan « Endless series » et de Houman Mortazavi « Self Defense series », des encres sur papier & sérigraphie de Amir Farhad, des peintures de Vahid Jafarnejad, de Yasser Mirzaee « War Paintings » ainsi qu'un projet photographique entre Ramyar Manoucherzadeh et Ali Nadjian « We live in a paradoxical society ».

Mojgan Endjavi-Barbé Avril 2012



CHERRY BLOSSOMS | 120 X 90 CM | INK & SILK PRINT | 2011

Choosing SURVIVAL as a theme for this exhibition, Endjavi-Barbé has picked her artists from Iran's contemporary arts scene.

These are three generations of artists who, like their predecessors, have mastered the art of self-expression without getting involved in social or political trends. All belonging to the post-revolution generation, the artists have the art of survival through the thick and thin of life in Iran, as well as developing their very own unique styles.

In any turbulent social, political and geographical landscape, self-expression may have unwanted and costly consequences, and yet, through centuries, Iranian artists have carefully crafted their own unique multi-layered, indirect and sophisticated approach to self-expression.

Through war, conflict, confrontation, deprivation and constant upheaval, the signature behaviour of almost all Iranians may be the odd level of awareness they have of their surroundings. An indirect and sometimes passive-aggressive approach which doubles as a survival skill.

"Survivors" includes works of

Sadegh Tirafkan's photographs from the "Endless Series";

Houman Mortazavi's "Self-Defense" series;

Amir Farhad's ink on paper & silk screen;

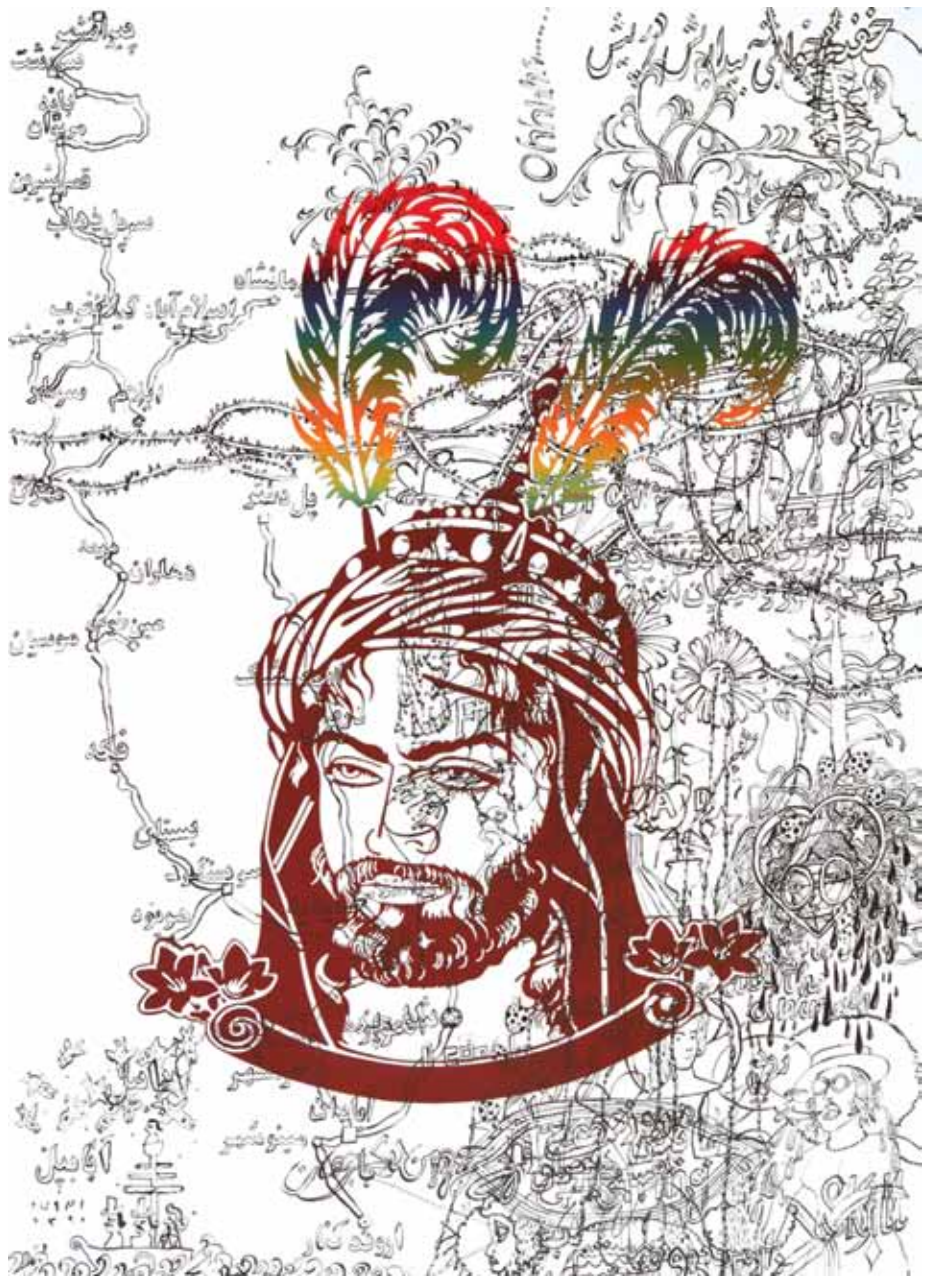
Vahid Jafarnejad's paintings;

Yasser Mirzaee's "War Paintings".

Also a joint photo project by Ramyar Manoucherzadeh and Ali Nadjian – "We live in a Paradoxical Society".

Mojgan Endjavi-Barbé, April 2012





CHERRY BLOSSOMS | 120 X 90 CM | INK & SILK PRINT | 2011

The survivor is an outsider. He is from here but not of here. He is contemporary but not of the day. He is familiar but not one of us. The survivor is an outsider.

“Survivor” is a controversial term. A person born in the Middle East will always be a survivor throughout his life. A survivor of centuries of religious and political dominance. A survivor of wars that occur all around, wars over oil and ideology, and wars over tradition and modernity. My generation is the survivor of street combats, a struggle for freedom from the dominion of conventions and laws. At the same time, the Iranian artist is a survivor of conflicts between Eastern and Western traditions, an East that no longer wants him, and a West that considers him an outsider.

My job is to depict this struggle for existence. It is to express on pieces of paper, these enmities that require peace more than war. I want to have everything all at once. These things show up in my work in the form of disfigured masses merged into one another. I am not alone here. There are a world of survivors living here with me. Survivor is not a vague concept it is just very complex.

I am an outsider who does not scream; I only whisper.

Amir Farhad, April 2012

**AMIR FARHAD – 1976**

### **EDUCATION**

Graphic Design at the School of Architecture & Fine Arts in Tehran

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2009 Gallery Homa
- 2006 Gallery Matne Sepid, Tehran
- 2006 Gallery Hoor, Tehran
- 2004 Maison de Caricature & Cartoons, Tehran

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2007 Gallery of independent illustrateur, Tehran
- 2007 Gallery Tehran
- 2007 Museum of Contemporary Art in Isfahan
- 2007 Aaran Gallery, Tehran
- 2007 Silk Road Gallery, Tehran
- 2008 Gallery Homa, Tehran
- 2009 Abu Dhabi Art Fair, with Silk Road Gallery, Iran
- 2011 Gallery Homa, Tehran

### **DOCUMENTARY FILMS** (profiling following artists)

- 2007 Yoones Fayaz Sanavi (Sculptor)
- 2007 Abolfazl Ali (Graphic Designer)
- 2007 Asghar Mohammadi (Sculptor)
- 2011 Behzad Golpayeghani (Graphic Designer)
- 2011 Cyrus Ghaem Maghami (Painter & Sculptor)
- 2011 Behrouz Golzari (Graphic Designer)



**AMIR FARHAD**



UNTITLED | 17 X 17 CM | MIXED MEDIA ON CARTON | 2012



My portraits speak of unidentifiable creatures that constantly change shape and form. They avoid being defined in order to save themselves from different organisms. They have no fear of facing their indefinable characteristics, and in fact celebrate these features. They live in a condition of free-fall, and in this context grasp the potentials of life that all ideologies attempt to impede. They reach unique and one-of-a-kind emotions by taking risks. The various appendages that appear in these works describe the agitation of these creatures. In places they hang like gold and silver off their bodies, and in other places like plants and flowers or a snake's forked tongue, depicting the magical quality of us humans, a magic that has been frustrated by society and its existing ideologies. There is a grief visible on the faces of these portraits that no voyage will be able to cure. It points to survivors.

Vahid Jafarnejad, April 2012

**VAHID JAFARNEJAD** – 1985

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2011 Homa Gallery, Tehran

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2011 Mah Mehr Gallery, Tehran

2010 Participated in the "Damon far" Festival

2010 "Montakhab nasle no",  
representing the new generation of artists.

2009 Finalist in "Montakhab nasle no",  
representing the new generation of artists.

2007-08 Worked in the underground art collective potk.



**VAHID JAFARNEJAD**



UNTITLED | 60 X 50 CM | FROM BEFORE, WAR, AFTER SERIES | 2011

War and Peace has made up a significant portion of human history. Wars between countries lead to massive destruction and deaths. Provocation, pride, quest for food, land, resources and political dominance over others lead to wars. Wars can also occur defending a country, providing security, seeking freedom and liberation, or securing the religion or honour of a country. They result in the destruction of economic infrastructures, disappearance of cultures, loss of human rights and life of thousands, if not millions.

What will happen in the case of nuclear war? A clear picture of nuclear war has not yet been depicted for the world. The result of such a war today will very likely be many times more devastating than the first atomic attacks on the Japanese cities. The final result of nuclear war may be the annihilation of the planet. It is said that human beings are the chosen creatures of God, but their history of violence raises serious doubts about this.

As Jean-François Lyotard says, "Civilisation is about advancing from bows and arrows to nuclear bombs.. !!"

Yasser Mirzaee, April 2012



**YASSER MIRZAEI** – 1982

### **EDUCATION**

- 2009 BA, Painting, Soureh Uneversity, Tehran, Iran
- 2006 MA, Painting, Art and Architecture Uneversity, Tehran, Iran

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2009 Homa Gallery, Tehran
- 2008 Aria Gallery, Tehran
- 2001 Barg Gallery, Tehran

### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2009 Contemporary Iranian Drawing Biennale, Imam Ali Museum, Tehran
- 2008 2nd Visual Arts Exhibition, Niavaran Cultural Centre, Tehran  
Selection from the New Generation, Homa Gallery, Tehran
- 2007 6th Painting Biennale, Saba Cultural Centre, Tehran  
Impacts of Miniature on Contemporary Iranian Painting, Mahe Mehr Gallery, Tehran
- 2006 Spring and Drawing, Aria Gallery, Tehran
- 2005 Drawing exhibition by the Free Artists' Group, Artists' House, Tehran  
Painting Biennale of the Islamic World, Saba Cultural Centre, Tehran  
Selection from the New Generation, Homa Gallery, Tehran
- 2004 Drawing Biennale, Karaj
- 2003 Drawing exhibition by the Second Generation Group, Barg Gallery, Tehran
- 2002 7th Exhibition of Contemporary Iranian Drawing, Barg Gallery, Tehran

### **AWARDS**

- 2008 Nominee, Visual Arts Exhibition, Niavaran Cultural Centre, Tehran
- 2006 Nominee, Selection from the New Generation, Homa Gallery, Tehran
- 2005 Nominee, Visual Arts Exhibition, Niavaran Cultural Centre, Tehran



UNTITLED | FROM THE "SELF DEFENCE SERIES" | MIXED MEDIA (GLASS, WOOD MAGNET | 20 X 40 CM | 2011

The thin line between interaction and intrusion is invisible. Actions based on goodwill or good intention can easily transform into invasion and disruption.

Being on either side of intrusion turns us into the hunter or the hunted. Through life, we all play our part both as the intruder and the intruded.

In "self-defence" series my focus has been on creating a last line of defence before one's private sphere is invaded and conquered. Similar to shanks (prisoner-made weapons) these cabinets are meant to provide a fake sense of security. Veiled, primitive and simple weapons which as ineffective and single-use as they might be, each can act as a last line of defence. Tools which are there to arm one at the last moment before all is exposed, endangered or lost.

Houman Mortazavi, April 2012

## HOUMAN MORTAZAVI– 1964

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 "Self-defence", Hung by a Nail, It-Kid, etc.. Homa Gallery. Tehran
- 2008 "Boxes". Asar Gallery. Tehran.
- 2003 "Project Misplaced" Presentation. Taft University. Boston.
- 2003 "Project Misplaced" Presentation. San Jose. California.
- 2003 "Project Misplaced" Presentation. UCLA. Los Angeles.
- 2003 "Project Misplaced". Articultural Gallery. Los Angeles.
- 1998 "Untitled Boxes" Installation. Southern California Institute of Architecture. Los Angeles
- 1997 "Homage to ..." Installation. Evidence Room, Los Angeles
- 1995 "Life Accessories" Installation. Private location. Tehran.
- 1994 "Life Accessories" Head Gears. Gallery #13. Tehran.
- 1992 "Boxes". Golestan Gallery. Tehran.
- 1987 "My Home". Golestan Gallery. Tehran.

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 "Irma, 6 A.M". Igreg Gallery. Tehran
- 2011 "10th Sharjah Biennial". UAE.
- 2010 "Twelve Cubed". Aun Gallery. Tehran
- 2009 "Iran, Inside Out". Chelsea Art Museum. New York
- 2008 "Van Gogh's Ear". Ten Galley. Tehran
- 2003 "Project Misplaced". Wellesley Collage. Boston.
- 1989 "First Painting Biennial". Museum of Contemporary Arts. Tehran.
- 1988 "Contemporary Painting Exhibition". Museum of Contemporary Arts. Tehran.



HOUMAN MORTAZAVI





ENDLESS | 74 X 101 CM | DIGITAL PHOTO COLLAGE | 2009-2010

Sadegh Tirafkan (born July 3, 1965 in Karbala, Iraq to Iranian parents) is an Iranian contemporary artist who lives in Tehran, Iran.

Tirafkan was six years of age his family fled the country before the start of the Islamic revolution. His family returned to Tehran where he grew up. As a young man, Tirafkan fought in the eight year long Iran - Iraq war in the 1980s as a Basiji or conscripted soldier. The artist works is characterised by a strong emphasis on the intrinsic role of the male in traditional Iranian society. 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, socio-political, religious and gender issues.

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.

Sadegh Tirafkan, April 2012



## SADEGH TIRAFKAN – 1965

### EDUCATION

1984-90 Bachelor of Art University of Tehran

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2011 AB Gallery Luzern, Switzerland  
2010 Selma Feriani Gallery, London, England  
2008 Assar Gallery Tehran, Iran  
2007 Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran  
2006 Lee ka-sing Gallery Toronto, Canada  
2006 Aspace Gallery Toronto, Canada  
2005 VU photography Centre Qubec City, Canada  
2004 Lehmann Maupin Gallery, NY USA  
2003 VU Gallery Paris, France  
2002 Massoud Nader Gallery NY, USA  
2002 Parkerson Gallery, Houston, USA

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2011 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Gift of Sultan Los Angeles, USA  
2010 Martin Gropius Bau Berlin, Tswir, Berlin, Germany  
2009 Chelsea art Museum, Iran inside out NY, USA  
2009 British Museum, London, England  
2008 Los Angeles County Museum of Art Los Angeles, USA  
2007 Maison European de la photographie Paris, France  
2006 Gold cost city Art Gallery, Australia  
2005 Art after revolution, Saint Sebastian, Spain

### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

2001 Museum of Contemporary art in Tehran, Iran  
2003 Maison European de la photographie Paris, France  
2007 British Museum, London, England  
2008 Los Angeles County Museum of Art Los Angeles, USA  
2008 Brooklyn Musuem NY, USA



WE LIVE IN A PARADOXICAL SOCIETY

Through these images, we aim to illustrate the output of a dual life in a constricted atmosphere which leads to fear and indifference. This collection has an internal narrative which is the result of our thoughts. There is no rule that sub-narratives are happening in each image, meaning that no boundary can be marked between reality and imagination, or between a documentary image and a subjective one. No one existing in the images are themselves but act as actors and actresses playing a role.

Ali & Ramyar, April 2012

#### **ALI NADIJAN – 1976**

2008 MFA in Photography, Art University of Tehran, Iran  
2006 BFA in Photography, Tehran University of Fine Arts, Iran  
Solo & groups exhibition since 2003 till 2009 (individual)

#### **RAMYAR MANOUCHEHRZADEH – 1980**

2008 MA Photography, Art University of Tehran, Iran  
2005 BA Photography, Tehran University, Iran  
Solo & group exhibition since 2002 till 2009 (individual)

#### **COMMON ACTIVITY (ALI & RAMYAR)**

2012 Ice, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran  
2010 Magic Of Persia Contemporary Art Prize  
2011, Dubai, UAE  
2010 Paris Photo Art Fair, Paris, France  
2010 Recent Self-Portraits, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran  
2010 We Live in a Paradoxical Society, Silk Road Art Gallery,  
Tehran, Iran



**ALI NADIJAN & RAMYAR MANOUCHEHRZADEH**

Mojgan Endjavi-Barbé est née en Iran. Après sa scolarité, Elle a quitté l'Iran pour étudier les sciences politiques et la sociologie à l'Université de l'Alabama à Huntsville, aux Etats-Unis. Elle a vécu 4 ans à Paris, ensuite 3 ans à Tokyo et 10 ans à Londres. Elle vit à Genève depuis août 2000.

Elle a travaillé avec de nombreux artistes internationaux depuis 1989. Ses voyages en Iran lui ont fait prendre conscience à quel point les artistes iraniens travaillent dur et dans quelle mesure ils ont progressé en exprimant leurs compétences et leur langage artistique. Il a fallu leur fournir une "plateforme" pour les rendre plus visibles et audibles à l'extérieur de l'Iran, d'où la création de ILLA (2005) à Genève, suivi par le projet de jardin persan de Genève en 2006.

Les artistes iraniens jouent un rôle de plus en plus important dans le monde artistique du Moyen-Orient et dans d'autres régions. Leurs oeuvres sont présentées aux biennales (réalisant d'impressionnants résultats aux ventes aux enchères), dans les foires d'arts internationales ainsi que dans les galeries et les musées mondialement renommés.

La jeunesse représente 60 % de la population Iranienne, qui comprend 74 millions d'habitants. Nous avons l'intention de représenter certains de ces artistes émergents. Leur énergie et leur talent nous ont motivés pour poursuivre cette mission.

## **NOTRE OBJECTIF**

Il n'y a actuellement aucune représentation des oeuvres de ces jeunes artistes à l'extérieur de l'Iran. Nous voulons combler ce vide et présenter leur travail ici à Genève du 9 au 26 janvier 2012.

## **RÉSIDENCES D'ART**

Actuellement, nous cherchons activement des possibilités pour les jeunes artistes iraniens de participer à des programmes de résidence à l'extérieur de l'Iran .

## **ART CONSULTANCY**

Nous offrons des services de consultation aux clients qui cherchent des conseils dans la navigation de la scène artistique contemporaine en Iran et ceux qui cherchent à construire des ponts culturels entre l'Iran et la communauté artistique internationale.





## REMERCIEMENTS

avec le soutien du fond d'art contemporain

FAMC AVEC LE SOUTIEN  
DE LA  
VILLE DE GENÈVE 

Madame Michele Freiburghaus, Geneve

Gallery Homa, Tehran

Silk Road Gallery, Tehran

Gallery Aun, Tehran

AB GALLERY, Luzern & Zürich

Steiner Graphics, Geneve

Mlle. Neda Navi, Geneve

M.Houman Mortazavi, Tehran

M.Shahrouz Nazari, Tehran

Madame Neptune Ingwersen, Geneve

Madame Sanam Kalantari, Tehran

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