

MITRA TABRIZIAN

Tehran, Iran, 1956

Lives and works in London, United Kingdom

Mitra Tabrizian studied film and photography at the University of Westminster, in London. She has published and exhibited widely and in major international museums and galleries, including Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Museum of Modern Art, Stockholm, Sweden and Folkwang Museum, Essen, Germany. Her work is represented in major museum collections. Her first relevant piece of work came out of her collaboration with Andy Golding in the photographic series *The Blues* 1986-87, and *Surveillance*, 1990. She has published widely, both articles and photo-essays, in international newspapers and magazines. She is currently teaching Image at the University of Westminster, in London, United Kingdom.

Naked city

"Reminiscent of stills from crime movies, Naked City focuses on the moment before or after the crime, yet leaving the criminal event outside the frame. What these photographs portray then are people's reactions to the event, whether they are the victim, the victimiser or the witness. In a society over-saturated with violence, where we have become immune to it, Naked City constructs fragments of narratives, referencing the raw reality of everyday life (some alluding to real events); from gang culture and racial violence, to the brutality against old people, to random attacks by happy slappers to our indifference when witnessing street violence. So the crime becomes perfect when no one cares, and violence goes on, unnoticed, except for those who have been subjected to it. Most of the settings are of unwanted spaces where no one wants to be; a waste land, disused warehouse, isolated street, abandoned underground, or a dark forest, no longer beautiful, but threatening, or a domestic space, no longer safe, but unsafe. Most of the characters are pushed to the edge, not knowing how to meet the unexpected, all of which construct a mise-enscène which is unsettling. So, at a metaphorical level the city is stripped bare, revealing the dark side of our contemporary existence where we remain in a state of limbo, like the characters in the Naked City, unable to understand the new condition we are facing!"* Mitra Tabrizian

(*) Happy-slapper: recent trend amongst groups of teenagers who perpetrate arbitrary attacks against pedestrians, film them on their mobiles and then publish the images on the Internet.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2012

Another Country, The Wapping Project Bankside, London, United Kingdom

Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA

2011

Project B, Contemporary Art, Milan, Italy

Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA

2009

Albion gallery, London, United Kingdom

2008

Mitra Tabrizian: This is that Place, Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

Beyond the Limits, Caprice Horn Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2006

Mitra Tabrizian, Moderna Musset (Museum of Modern Art), Stockholm, Sweden

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2004

Solo Show, BBK, Bilbao, Spain

Solo show, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

2003

Beyond the Borders, Museum of Folkwang, Germany

1998

Minimal Utopia, Camera Austria Gallery, Graz, Austria

1994

Hippolyte Gallery, Helsinki, Finland

Gallery Index: Centre of Photography, Stockholm, Sweden

1988

The Blues, Corner House, Manchester, United Kingdom

1986

Chateau d'Eau Gallery, Toulouse, France

Gallery 400, Chicago, USA

Screen Memories, Perspectief, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Stills Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2013

Summer Selects, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, USA

Safar/ Voyagen, MOA, UBC Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, Canada

2012

Iranian Pulse, SESC, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Light from Middle East, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom

2011

Regarding Iran: Acquiescence and Conceptual Poetics, Guild Gallery, Bombay, India

Zendegi, Beirut Exhibition Centre, Kent, United Kingdom

Tension, Hezy Cohen gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel

2010

Twenty-First Century, National Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland, Australia

Play list, Jönköpings läns museum, Jönköpings, Sweden

In and out Project B, Contemporary Art, Milan, Italy

2009

Theatre of the Real, Fotomuseum, Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

Translation/Tarjama, Queens Museum of Art, New York, USA

The End: Analyzing Art in Troubled Times, Andy Warhol Museum, New York, USA

L'Iran Sans Frontiere, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, France

Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, USA

Iran Inside Out, DePaul University Museum, Chicago, USA

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2008

Street and Studio: An Urban History of Photography, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom
Street and Studio: An Urban History of Photography, Museum of Folkwang, Essen, Germany
Street and Studio: An Urban History of Photography, Sotheby's, London, United Kingdom

2007

FotoArtFestival, Bielsko-Biala, Poland

2006

Contemporary Iranian photography, The House of Artists, Tehran, Iran

2005

Safe: an exhibition of contemporary art, Karlskrona Art Gallery & Blekinge Museum, Sweden

2004

Far Near Distance - New Positions of Contemporary Iranian Artists, the House of World Cultures, Berlin, Germany
Veil, The Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden
Lumo 04 triennial of Contemporary Photography, Jyvaskyla Art Museum, Jyvaskyla, Finland

2003

Aletheia: The Real of concealment, Art Museum, Goteborg, Sweden
Veil, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, United Kingdom

2001

Inhabiting, Gallery Lelong, New York, USA

1999

London: Post-Colonial City, Architectural Association, London, United Kingdom

1996

Gender- Beyond Memory, Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan
Family, Nation, Tribe, Community Shift, House of World Cultures, Berlin, Germany

1995

The Outburst of Signs: Art at the Interfaces of Gender & Race, Kunstlerwerkstatt Lothringerstrabe, Munich, Germany

1994

Le Shuttle, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
Public Domain, Art Centre Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain

1992

History Present, Museum of Folkwang, Essen, Germany
Fine Material for a Dream....? A Reappraisal of Orientalism: 19th & 20th Century Fine Art & Popular Culture, Harris Museum, Preston, United Kingdom

1991

Shocks to the System: Social & Political Issues in Recent British Art, Royal Festival Hall, London, United Kingdom
Public Images, Forum Stadtpark, Graz, Austria

1990

Spectacular Women, Film in the Cities, Saint Paul, USA
Contemporary Social Documentary, Fotobienal, Art History Centre, Vigo, Spain

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1989

Through the Looking Glass: Photographic Art in Britain, 1945- 89, Barbican Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom
The Boundaries of Photography, Alvar Aalto Museum, Jyväskylä, Finland
Some Notions on Marginality, Grey Art Gallery, NYU Study Centre, New York, USA

1988

The Other Body, Photographic Resource Centre, Boston, USA
International Photography, Metronom, Barcelona, Spain
Reflections on the Media, Perspektief, Delft, Netherlands
Towards the Photograph as a Vulgar Document, Optica Gallery, Montreal, Canada
Sexual Difference Both Sides of the Camera, Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York, USA

1987

The Body Politic, The Photographers Gallery, London, United Kingdom

1986

International Photography, Arles International Gallery, Arles, France
Magnificent Obsession, ARC Gallery, Toronto, USA
Impostors, Interim Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Towards a Bigger Picture, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
European Women Photographers Today, Torino otografia, Torino, Italy
Beyond the Purloined Image, The Riverside, London, United Kingdom
The Way We Live Now: Beyond Social Documentary, PS1 Gallery, New York, USA
Phototextes, Musee d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva, Switzerland
Five Photographers, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, United Kingdom
The Actress, The Photographers' Gallery, London, United Kingdom

COLLECTION

Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Australia
Musée d'Art Moderne (Museum of Modern Art), Luxembourg
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
Moderna Mussels (Museum of Modern art), Stockholm, Sweden
Museum of Folkwang, Essen, Germany
Zoroastrian Cultural Centre, Paris, France
Sparkasse Essen, Germany
Stichting Fotografie Noorderlicht, Netherlands
The Arts Council of Great Britain
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
National Museum of Photography, Film & Television, Bradford, United Kingdom
The Moravian Gallery, Czechoslovakia
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, USA
Alvar Aalto Museum, Finland

AWARDS

2006

Arts & Humanities Research Center (AHRC) Research Leave Grant The Arts Council, United Kingdom

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2005

Arts & Humanities Research Center (AHRC) Grants in the Creative & Performing Arts

2004

The Arts Council, United Kingdom

2003

Arts & Humanities Research Board (AHRB) Innovation Awards

1996

London Arts Board

1993

British Film Institute

1989

Greater London Arts (GLA), film award British Film Institute Photographers, Gallery Trust Fund, USA

1987

Metro Billboard Project, Newcastle, United Kingdom

Greater London Arts, photography award

1985

National Museum of Photography, Film & Television, photography award, United Kingdom

Greater London Arts, photography award Arts Council photography award, United Kingdom

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Monographs (Selection)

2012

Mitra Tabrizian: Another Country, Hatje Cantz Publishers, Ostfildern

2008

This is That Place, Tate Catalogue, London

2004

Beyond the limits the Limits, Steidl, Gotinga

1990

Correct Distance, Cornerhouse, Manchester

Books and catalogues (selection)

2012

Collecting Contemporary: Photography, Thames & Hudson Ltd., London

2010

Art of the Middle East: Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World and Iran, Merrell Publishers, London

2009

Different, Sames: New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art, TransGlobe Publishing Ltd, London

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2001

Art and Feminism, Phaidon Press, London

2000

Terra Infirma: Geography's Visual Cultur, Routledge, London

1999

Visual Culture: The Reader, SAGE Publications Ltd., with Open University, London

1998

The Art of Interruption: Realism, Photography, and the Everyday, Manchester University Press, Manchester

Vision and Difference: Femininity, Feminism and Histories of Art, Routledge Classics, London

Visual and Other Pleasures (Language, Discourse, Society), Indiana University Press, Bloomington

1987

Identity: The Real Me: Postmodernism and the Question of Identity, The Institute of Contemporary Arts, London

1986

Photography/Politics: Two Photography Workshops (Volume II), Comedia Publishing Group, London

1985

Female Desire: How They are Sought, Bought and Packaged, Grove Press, New York