

BITA GHEZELAYAGH



Are Bullets the answer to Flowers? I & II, talismanic metals and embroidery on felt, 110 x 110 cm, 2009

TARANEH HEMAMI



Yousef, 1352, from the series Heroes, Martyrs and Legends, faceted beads and string, 64 x 41 cm, 2008



Heroes, Martyrs and Legends, faceted beads and string, 12 individual works, 64 x 41 cm (each), 2008

FARHAD  
AHRARNIA  
PARASTOU  
FOROUHAR  
BITA  
GHEZELAYAGH  
TARANEH  
HEMAMI

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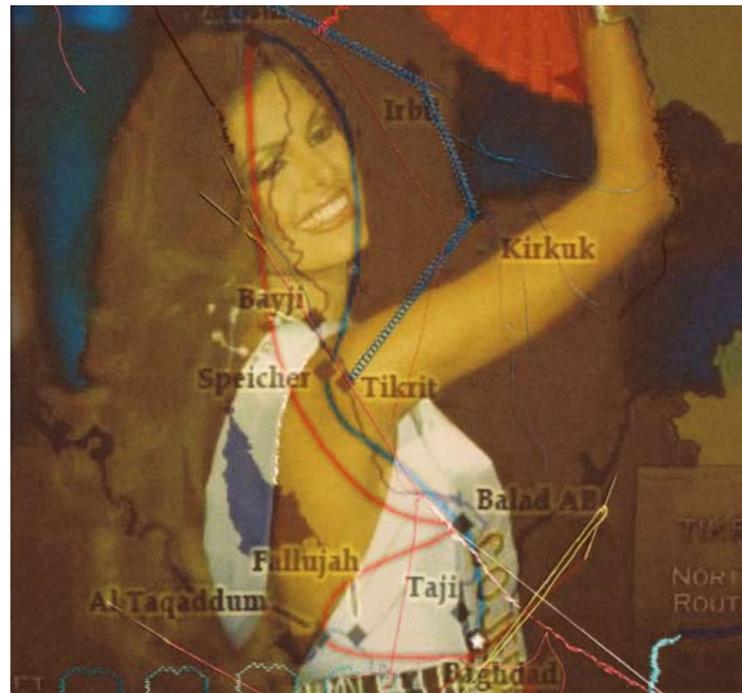
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CONTEMPORARY ART  
FROM THE ARAB WORLD AND IRAN

## FARHAD AHRARNIA



Still from the 3 minutes video *Mr Singer*, 2003



Detail of *Miss Iraq V*, digital photography, embroidery and needles on canvas, 52 x 39 cm, 2008-2009

## PARASTOU FOROUHAR



*The Signs series*, laminated digital drawings on aluminium, diameter 40 cm, 2004-2010



## BIOGRAPHIES

### FARHAD AHRARNIA

Artist Farhad Ahrarnia was born in 1971 in Shiraz, Iran and studied at the Sheffield Hallam University in England. He lives and works between Sheffield and Shiraz. His work is collected by private and public institutions around the world and he has exhibited extensively in Britain and abroad, including the solo shows, "Stitched", at Leighton House Museum, London (2008) and "Home", at Bessie Serteese House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England and Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead, England (both 2004).

He has appeared in several group shows, including the Sheffield Pavilion at the Venice Biennale and Documenta XII, Germany (both 2007); "Prelude", at the Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford, England; and "Palace & Mosque: Islamic Arts from the Victoria & Albert Museum", at the Millennium Galleries, Sheffield, England (both 2006). His work also featured in the touring exhibitions "Art Textiles 3" (Suffolk, Scotland, and Nottinghamshire; 2004) and "Art of The Stitch" (London, Liverpool, The Netherlands; 2004).

### PARASTOU FOROUHAR

Installation and multi-media artist Parastou Forouhar was born in 1962 in Teheran, and since 1991 has lived and worked in Germany. She graduated in 1990 with a BA in Art from the University of Tehran, and with an MA from the Hochschule für Gestaltung, Offenbach am Main, Germany in 1994.

Selected solo shows include "Just A Minute", Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Rome (2007); "Spielmannszüge", Forum of the Dominican Monastery, Frankfurt (2007); "Parastou Forouhar", Deutscher Dom, Berlin (2005); "1001 days", the National Gallery Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, (2003); and "Blind Spot", Exhibition Hall Schulstrasse 1A, Frankfurt/M and Stavanger Cultural Centre, Norway (2001-2).

Selected group shows include "Mahrem", Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna and Santralistanbul, Turkey; "Re-Imagining Asia", Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2008); "Global Feminisms", Brooklyn Museum, New York (2007); "Intersections", Jewish Museum of Melbourne and Jewish Museum San Francisco (2005); and "Far Near Distance", House of World Cultures, Berlin (2004). She also participated in the Biennales of Istanbul (2007), Berlin (2001), and Busan, South Korea (2004).

She has been awarded residencies at the BM Centre of Contemporary Art, Istanbul (2007); Villa Massimo, Rome (2006); Gertrude Centre of Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2005); and Schloss Balmoral, Austria (2004).

Forouhar's work is in the permanent collection of the Queensland Art Museum, Australia.

### BITA GHEZELAYAGH

Bitá Ghezelayagh was born in Florence, Italy in 1966 and moved to Tehran in 1968. She now lives in London, and works between London and Tehran. In 1984, at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, she left for Paris to study architecture at Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette. She returned to Tehran in 1994, where she worked in building restoration for the Association of Iranian Calligraphers in Tehran ("Anjomane Khoshnevisan"). Ghezelayagh was also the art director of three notable Iranian films, including "The Pear Tree" ("Derakhte Golabi") by Dariush Mehrjui.

In 2003 she started working in the traditional Iranian craft of felt-making and had her first solo exhibition at the House of Artists ("Khane Honarmandan"), Tehran (2008). Her first international solo exhibition, "Felt Memories", was at the Rose Issa Project space in London (2009), followed by the UK touring solo exhibition, "Namad: A Persian Journey in Felt", at The Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow; Quilt Museum, York; and Hawick Museum, Roxburghshire, Scotland (2009-2010).

### TARANEH HEMAMI

Interdisciplinary visual artist Taraneh Hemami was born in Iran in 1960 and lives and works in San Francisco. She graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Painting (Distinction) from the California College of the Arts, Oakland, California (1991) and received a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Painting & Drawing from the University of Oregon, Eugene (1982). As well as exhibiting extensively, Hemami lectures, teaches and curates.

Hemami's numerous solo shows include "Evocations", Rose Issa Project space, London (2008); "Most Wanted", Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco (2007); "Remembrances", Persian Cultural Center, Berkeley, California (2003); "Hall of Reflections", San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco (2002); and "Sacred Space", The Lab, San Francisco (1995).

Group shows include "One Day", Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco (2009); "Theory of Survival", Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2008); "We Remember the Sun", San Francisco Art Institute (2008); "Global Eyes", Siggraph International Exhibition, San Diego, California (2007); "Stitches in Time", ArtsChange, Richmond, California (2007); "Intimate Bodies/Public Spaces", Mina Dresden, San Francisco (2006); "On the Edge of Culture", Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (2006); "Represent", Oliver Art Center, Oakland, California (2005); "Of Past and Present", Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco (2005); "Sacred Spaces", Berkeley Arts Center, California (2004); "The Drawing Project", Vamiali Art Gallery, Athens (2004); Sharjah 6th International Biennial, United Arab Emirates (2003); "25 Years of Separation", Articultural Gallery, Pasadena, California (2003); "Reconstructing Reality", The Oakland Gallery, Oakland, California (2001); "Alchemy", MY Art Prospects, New York (2001); and "Re-Counting", The Judah L. Magnes Museum, Berkeley, California (2001).