



la Biennale di Venezia

56. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali

The Great Game



Iran
India
Pakistan
Afghanistan
Iraq
Central-Asian Republics
Kurdish Region

Art, Artists and Culture from the Heart of the World

The Great Game

Iran, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq,
Central-Asian Republics, Kurdish Region

Art, Artists and Culture from the Heart of the World

The idea of this exhibition – and book – comes from the consideration that the geographical area of these countries is, in fact, a historically unique territory, its destiny indissolubly linked to its historical and cultural situation: around these places there took place, and still takes place, what since the 19th century has been known as "The Great Game" for supremacy in the Middle East and Central Asia. A tangle of political, economic, religious, and social situations also finds an expression and interpretation in the art produced in these places, and it is this that the exhibition proposed for the Venice Biennale hopes to show through the work of some fifty artists working in the region and who are particularly aware of social-political questions.

Curated by Marco Meneguzzo and by Mazdak Faiznia, the exhibition demonstrates the centrality of this question and how it is perceived and reestablished by an international public through the language of contemporary art.

Lida Abdul
Bani Abidi
Adel Abidin
Amin Aghaei
Ghodratollah Agheli
Shahriar Ahmadi
Parastoo Ahovan
Farhad Ahrarnia
Furat al Jamil
Rashad Alakbarov
Nazgol Ansarinia
Reza Aramesh
Alireza Astaneh
Sonia Balassanian
Mahmoud Bakhshi Moakhar
Wafaa Bilal
Mehdi Farhadian
Shadi Ghadirian
Shilpa Gupta
Ghasem Hajizadeh
Shamsia Hassani
Sahand Hesamiyan
Sitara Ibrahimova
Pouran Jinch
Amar Kanwar
Babak Kazemi
Riyas Komu
Farideh Lashai
Farokh Mahdavi
Mehrdad Mohebbali
Ahmad Morshedloo
Huma Mulji
Azad Nanakeli
Jamal Penjweny
Imran Qureshi
Sara Rahbar
Rashid Rana
Atefeh Samaei
T.V. Santhosh
Monir Shahrudy Farmanfarmaian
Vahid Sharifian
Walid Siti
Mohsen Taasha Wahidi
Mitra Tabrizian
Parviz Tanavoli
Newsha Tavakolian
Sadegh Tirafkan
Hema Upadhyay
Saira Wasim

Mitra Tabrizian

City, London, 2008
c-type photographic print, 122 x 250 cm
edition 1 of 5, 2 AP
Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery



The subject of both works are the young. In *Untitled*, the photograph shows a group of Iranian students in a deserted landscape: they are placed at such a distance from the camera that they cannot be recognised, but they are not too far away to be simply background figures. *Looking back* was shot in London: it shows a group of unemployed youngsters who sit in a decrepit theatre and look at the viewer. These are presences that cannot be ignored.

BT

Soggetto di entrambe le opere sono i giovani. In *Untitled* la fotografia ritrae un gruppo di studenti iraniani, in un paesaggio deserto: la loro posizione è a una lontananza dall'obiettivo tale per cui non possono essere riconosciuti, ma non sono abbastanza lontani per essere figure di sfondo. *Looking back* è stata scattata a Londra: un gruppo di ragazzi disoccupati siede in un teatro fatiscente e guarda lo spettatore. Si tratta di presenze che non possono essere ignorate.

BT

موضوع هر دو این آثار جوانان هستند. تابلو « بی نام », تصویر گروهی از دانشجویان ایرانی را در دورنمای یک بیابان نشان می دهد. محل قرار گرفتن سوژه ها به قدری از دوربین دور است که نمی توان آنها را تشخیص داد، اما در عین حال آنقدر هم دور نیست که آنها را تبدیل به اشکالی در پس زمینه کند. عکس « نگاه به پشت سر » در لندن گرفته شده است: گروهی از جوانان بیکار در یک سالن تئاتر فرسوده و متروک نشسته اند و به بیننده نگاه می کنند؛ این تصاویر، منعکس کننده « حضور » ی است که نمی توان نادیده گرفت.

B.T

Looking back, 2013
c-type photographic print, 178 x 237.5 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Leila Heller
Gallery, New York/Dubai



Mitra Tabrizian

Untitled, 2009
c-type photographic print, 106 x 307 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Leila Heller
Gallery



West Suburb, 2008
122 x 130 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Leila Heller
Gallery, New York/Dubai

