

# OSBORNE SAMUEL

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

'IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT'

THREE ARTISTS FROM IRAN

Private View 24 June 2009

6 - 8pm

Exhibition 25 June - 11 July 2009

Three of the important new wave of contemporary artists from Iran will be showing in London for the first time at Osborne Samuel in June. Well known for its pioneering exhibitions of art from emerging nations the gallery is delighted to welcome three of Iran's best known artists. Each has been invited to respond to one of three exhibition spaces in the gallery and to break new ground with their installations.

The exhibition is in association with Janet Rady Fine Art & Neda Dana-Haeri.

Thirty years on from the Revolution, Iranian Contemporary art is fast becoming the means by which

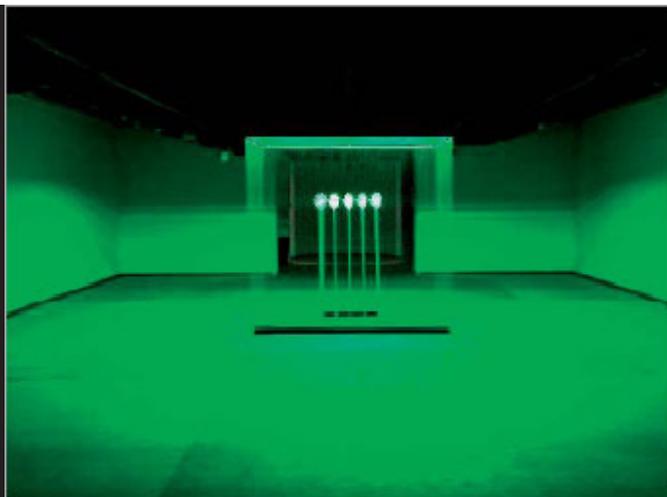
young Iranians are redefining their identity in the West. Interest in this area of the art market has been rapidly expanding both in the UAE, where auction houses, galleries and an international art fair have, in recent years, made huge inroads in the cultural scene as now in London, where the works of young talented artists from Iran are also being duly recognised and showcased. In contrast with much of the output from Western studios today, Contemporary Iranian art is particularly special in that its makers demonstrate a profound interest and connection with their rich cultural and religious heritage, albeit redefined in terms of the context of the twenty first century. The results are truly innovative and inspirational and have become highly sought after by international art collectors.



**Endless Series No 4, 2009**  
C-Print on digital RC paper, with steel frame  
Signed & dated verso. From the edition of 6  
74 x 101 cm

## SADEGH TIRAFKAN

Born in Iraq in 1965 to Iranian parents, Tirafkan returned to Iran in the 1970s and completed his training as a photographer in Tehran in 1990. His work spans photography, video and installation and focuses mainly on his culture, identity and gender. He is an artist whose core body of work is based on how people perceive each other. As an Iranian artist, he has explored historical space in the context of his artwork, taking his inspiration from his surroundings. His previous projects, of which the present one 'Endless' is a continuation, have reflected his identity, his heritage, and the city he lives in. In a society that inspires him in so many different ways, Tirafkan fuses his eastern influences with those of the western art world. Following the expansion of interest in Contemporary Iranian art beyond its territorial borders, he is situating his work in a wider international context.



**Dakhil**, 2003  
Installation. Green Fluorescent lamps, plexiglass & glass thread. 200 x 200 x 200 cm

### MORTEZA DAREHBAGHI

Born in 1969, educated and works in Iran. He has been widely exhibited in Iran, the Middle East and USA. Darehbaghi's search for man and nature leads his abstract work to explore the image of a light luxuriant atmosphere of the ancient eras. There is a yearning for the past traditions and ancient civilization which manifests itself in his use of colours and motifs which permeates his conceptual work. He is part of the young generation of artists who, following social upheavals, war and crises, are trying to materialize their ideas. This generation expresses itself in a unique personal fashion. Religious signs and symbols, seen through a contemporary eye, all arise from the same sacred and traditional notions that he has contemplated over the years. His childhood memories, such as religious ceremonies infuse his present creativity, which seeks a way to link the past to the future.



**Study for Reconfiguration (Infinite Quantity)**  
from 'In Bimester We Trust' Series, 2008  
Photograph (C-Print). Signed & dated verso.  
From the edition of 3 + 1 artist's proof  
60 x 90 cm

### BEHROUZ RAE

Born in Soviet Azerbaijan in 1979, where he lived until the age of twelve. He stresses, in contrast to Tirafkan and Darehbaghi, that the focus of his work is not nationality based or influenced by an Iranian persona. Coming to his art late at the age of twenty one from a background in mathematics, Rae demonstrates through his intimate drawings, photographs and videos a profoundly personal view of the world. Often tackling dark subjects such as the weight of history, childhood, the conflict of reality in truth, lies, the quality of the mind, night, questions, answers, one's future experiences waiting to happen and precautions against it, he constantly challenges his audiences to question his work and themselves. The drawings and photographs in this exhibition continue the Bimester series he has recently began and provides a rare chance to view the broad range of his oeuvre.

Abbas Kiarostami is one of the most ambitious and rewarding filmmakers at work today. His new film *Shirin (Iran 2008)*, a retelling of a classic Persian love story, offers a feast for the imagination of a wholly unexpected kind. At BFI Southbank, Barbican and selected cinemas from 26 June.

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/shirinosbornesamuel>

Osborne Samuel Ltd in association with



A full colour catalogue for the exhibition is available on request.  
For more information, artist details and images contact Barby Chhohan at the gallery.  
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