

**New photo exhibit at the Jepson offers an intimate view of Iran**

Emily Goldman | Wednesday, June 3, 2009

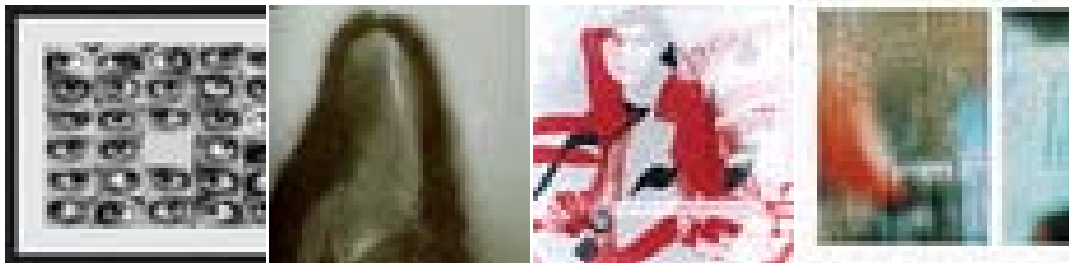


This untitled silver gelatin print by Yahya Dehghanpoor is one of 58 works that make up "Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran." The exhibit is set to open June 10 at the Jepson Center for the Arts. (Courtesy of the Telfair Museum of Art)

This untitled image by Ebrahim Khadem Bayat is part of "Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran," an exhibit set to open at the Jepson Center for the Arts on June 10. (Courtesy of the Telfair Museum of Art)

This C-print titled Image of the Imagination 2 by Bahman Jalali is one of 58 works that make up the exhibit "Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran." The exhibit is set to open June 10 at the Jepson Center for the Arts. (Courtesy of the Telfair Museum of Art)

These images titled "The Light is Out the Room is Dark" by Mehran Mohajer are part of "Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran," an exhibit set to open at the Jepson Center for the Arts on June 10. (Courtesy of the Telfair Museum of Art)



The Jepson Center for the Arts' latest photography exhibit, "Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran" offers Savannahians an intimate view of the people of Iran.

"Given that part of the world is so much in the news and so much a part of our reality, it is important for us to show art by Iranians who have such a different perspective of these events," said Holly McCullough, Curator of Fine Arts and Exhibitions at the Telfair Museum of the Art.

The exhibit, set to open at the Jepson Center on Wednesday and scheduled to run through Aug. 31, includes 58 works of photography and video from 20 contemporary Iranian photographers.

"The images are internalized, symbolic, abstract and emotional rather than objective documentary style," McCullough said.

References made to war are overt, but present.

"You know you are dealing with imagery created by people from a war-torn country," McCullough said. "The concept of absence over presence makes it a very evocative and moving show."

McCullough hopes the exhibit will help widen people's view of the world.

"I hope it will let people know that there is a vital scene (in Iran); artists with something to say," McCullough said.

"Persian Visions" was developed by Hamid Severi for the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in Iran, and Gary Hallman of the Regis Center for Art at the University of Minnesota, and toured by International Arts & Artists of Washington, D.C.

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## IF YOU GO

What: "Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran"

When: June 10-Aug. 31

Where: Jepson Center for the Arts

Information: 790-8800.

"Half Moon"

To complement "Persian Visions," the Reel Savannah Film Group is scheduled to present a screening of the acclaimed film "Half Moon" by Iranian-Kurdish director Bahman Ghobadi at 6:30 p.m. July 23 at the Jepson Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$6.