

FOCUS IRAN 3: CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT :

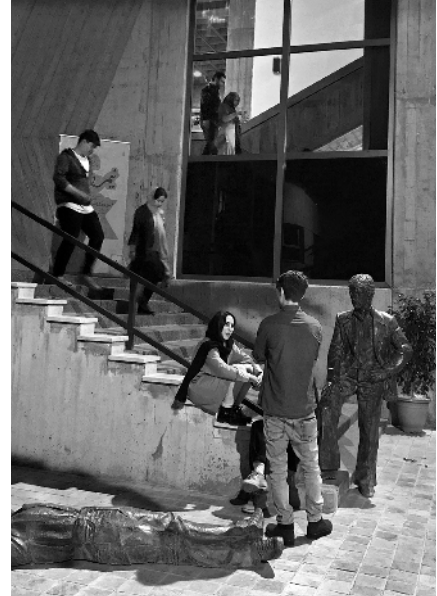
SASHA ALI

PR@CAFAM.ORG

323 937 4230 x 25

JANUARY 27 – MAY 12, 2019

OPENING RECEPTION: JANUARY 26, 2019, 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.



FOCUS IRAN 3 OFFERS VIEWS INTO THE LIVES OF
CONTEMPORARY IRANIAN YOUTH THROUGH
PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

LOS ANGELES – The Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) and Farhang Foundation present the juried exhibition ***Focus Iran 3: Contemporary Photography and Video***. *Focus Iran* is a series of biennial exhibitions that features distinctive perspective about Iran through photography and video works. **This year's theme puts a lens on Iranian youth culture.** An international panel of jurors selected **forty-two photographs and videos** that will be displayed in a group exhibition from January 27 to May 12, 2019, with an opening reception to take place on January 26 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The exhibition will continue to the University of California, Irvine's Viewpoint Gallery from October 5 to November 5, 2019.

The artists selected for the exhibition reside mostly in Iran or the United States, with some residing in countries such as Canada, France, Italy, and Portugal. Each were selected for their **multi-faceted and intriguing views into young Iranians and how they navigate their lives.** Some portraits reveal personal style or street fashion, while others show time spent participating in leisure activities such as sport or music. Other works explore queer identity and

Images (left to right): Milad Karamooz, *The Kiss*, digital photograph, 2016; Babak Kanaani, *Untitled*, digital photography, 2018. Courtesy of the artists.

gender representations, as well as the relationship that youth have with religion, family, and the state.

The top three cash prize winners are a photograph by **Hushidar Mortezaie and Jiyan Zandi** (\$3,000); a video work by **Labkhand Olfatmanesh and Gazelle Samizay** (\$2,000); and a photograph by **Milad Karamooz** (\$1,000).

The jury panel consisted of prominent Iranian photographers **Mehrdad Afsari, Babak Tafreshi**, and **Maryam Zandi**; Iranian cinematographer and director **Seifollah Samadian**; the J. Paul Getty Museum's associate curator of photography **Amanda Maddox**; Iranian gallerist and educator **Aria Eghbal**; and CAFAM exhibitions curator **Holly Jerger**.



The other selected artists are Pouya Afshar, Mahsa Alikhani, Farzad Ariannejad & Shaghayegh Marzban, Ali Bagheri, Parna Baharali, Bahar Behbahani, Linda Dorigo, Mozghan Erfani, Maryam Firuzi, Maseeh Ganjali, Anahid Ghorbani, Payam Ghorbani, Milad Haddadiyan, Bahador Hadizadeh, Hamed Heydari, Changiz Jalayer, Babak Kanaani, Mehdi Kazemi Boomeh, Ghazaleh Keshavarz, Fatemeh Khajehnouri, Reza Khodayar, Saman Khosravi, Sanaz Khosravi, Hamed Kolahchian Tabrizi, Sheida Koufigar, Negar Latifian, Seyed Shahabeddin Montazeri, Mona Morsi, Parham Pashaei, Ehsan Rahimpour, Maryam Rassapour, Arash Rod, Reza Rohani, Samira Roostaie, Hadi Safari, Farzad Shad, Majid Shahrabi, Ghazal Sheei, Sepideh Salehi & Kamran Taherimoghaddam, and Morteza Teimouri.

"This year's work is the strongest to date as the focus on youth culture has opened a door to imagination and social reporting that combines the fresh and ancient in an extraordinary way," says **CAFAM executive director Suzanne Isken**.

"*Focus Iran 3* is bringing to Los Angeles the vibrant energy of Iranian youth; a lot of uncertainty about their future, but still hopeful, fun, progressive, and ready to be a part of the larger global village," says **Amirali Angha, chair of the Farhang Foundation Fine Arts Council**.

An opening reception for *Focus Iran 3: Contemporary Photography and Video* will take place at the Craft & Folk Art Museum, 5814 Wilshire Blvd., on Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Images (left to right): Linda Dorigo, *Volleyball Iran*, digital photography, 2010; Labkhand Olfatmanesh and Gazelle Samizay, *Bepar*, video still, 2018. Courtesy of the artists.



CREDITS

This exhibition is made possible by the support of Farhang Foundation. Generous support also comes from presenting sponsors the Gramian-Emrani Family Foundation, Farhad Mohit and Nushin Sabet, and Ali Razi; and major donor ADVOCARTSY.

PROGRAMS

CAFAM will offer exhibition-related workshops and events in conjunction with the exhibition, including CraftLab family workshops on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Details can be found at www.cafam.org/programs.

CATALOGUE

A fully illustrated catalogue will be published to accompany the exhibition. Catalogues will be available for purchase in-store and online at www.cafamshop.org.

The **Craft & Folk Art Museum** (CAFAM) is Los Angeles' only institution exclusively dedicated to exhibiting contemporary craft, design, and folk art. Located on the city's historic Miracle Mile since 1965, CAFAM's dynamic exhibitions feature established and emerging artists whose works create thoughtful and provocative visual exchanges between craft and contemporary art. CAFAM's regular programs and events provide opportunities for the public to participate in artmaking and engage with exhibiting and local artists. For more information, visit www.cafam.org

Farhang Foundation is a nonreligious, nonpolitical, and nonprofit foundation established in 2008 to celebrate and promote Iranian art and culture for the benefit of the community at large. The foundation supports a broad range of academic and cultural activities in Southern California by funding university programs, diverse cultural programs such as the celebrations of Nowruz and Shab-e Yalda, as well as musical performances, film screenings, and festivals in Southern California. For more info visit www.farhang.org

Craft & Folk Art Museum

Location: 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036

Admission: FREE every Sunday

Regularly: \$9 for adults; \$7 for students, teachers, and seniors; free for CAFAM members

Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; closed Mondays. Every first Thursday of the month, extended hours 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Image: Hushidar Mortezaie and Jiyan Zandi, *The Brotherhood*, digital photograph, 2018. Courtesy of the artists.

###