Shirin Neshat (b. 1957, Qazvin, Iran) completed her education in the USA in 1974, five years later the Islamic Revolution prevented her from returning to her home country for almost twenty years. Her personal experiences as a Muslim woman in exile have informed her practice in which she employs photography, video installation, cinema and performance to explore political structures that have shaped the history of Iran and other Middle Eastern nations. Neshat portrays the alienation of women in repressive Muslim societies interrogating the role reserved for women Islamic value systems. In her practice, she employs poetic imagery to engage with themes of gender and society, the individual and the collective, and the dialectical relationship between past and present, through the lens of her experiences of belonging and exile.

She has mounted numerous solo exhibitions at museums internationally, including: the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; the Serpentine Gallery, London; Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; and the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal. Recent solo exhibitions include: Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria; Faurschou Foundation, Copenhagen; Kunsthalle Tübingen, Germany; and Museo Correr, Italy, which was an official corollary event to the 57th Biennale di Venezia in 2017. A major retrospective of her work was exhibited at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 2013. Neshat was awarded the Golden Lion Award, the First International Prize at the 48th Biennale di Venezia (1999), the Hiroshima Freedom Prize (2005), and the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize (2006). In 2009, Neshat directed her first feature-length film, Women Without Men, which received the Silver Lion Award for “Best Director” at the 66th Venice International Film Festival. In 2017, Neshat was awarded the prestigious Praemium Imperiale award for Painting. That same year, Neshat directed Giuseppe Verdi’s Aida at the Salzburg. Currently The Broad Museum in Los Angeles is currently hosting a survey exhibition of the last 25 years of Neshat’s work. The artist lives and works in New York, USA.
Selected recent and upcoming Solo Exhibitions -

2020  “Land of Dreams”, Goodman Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2019  “Shirin Neshat” Glenstone Museum, Potomac, Maryland
   “Shirin Neshat: Dreamers,“ National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
   I Will Greet the Sun Again, The Broad Museum, Los Angeles, USA
   Looking for Oum Kulthum, Musée de l’Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland
   “Shirin Neshat,” Indiana University’s Herron School of Art + Design, Indianapolis

2018  Refugio frente a la tormenta. Miradas al exilio desde la Coleccion MUSAC,
   Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y Leon, Leon, Spain.
   I am you, you are too, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
   Long, winding Journeys: Contemporary Art and the Islamic Tradition,
   Katonah Museum of Art, New York, USA
   “Shirin Neshat”, Looking for Oum Kulthum, Faurschou Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark
   “Shirin Neshat: Dreamers”, Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria
   “Shirin Neshat”, Frauen in Gesellschaft, Neue Galerie Graz, Austria

2017  “Shirin Neshat”, Fervor and Turbulent, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca
   Raton, Florida
   “Shirin Neshat”, Kunsthalle Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
   “Dreamers”, Gladstone Gallery, New York
   “Shirin Neshat, The Home of My Eyes”, Museo Correr, Venice, Italy
   “Dreamers”, Dirimart, Istanbul, Turkey
   “Shirin Neshat”, Es Baluard, Palma, Majorca, Spain

2016  “Dreamers”, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2015  “Shirin Neshat: The Home of My Eyes”, Yarat Art Center, Baku, Azerbaijan
   “Shirin Neshat: Facing History”, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA

2014  “Shirin Neshat: Afterwards”, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
   “Shirin Neshat”, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea
“Shirin Neshat”, Mücsarnok Kunsthalle, Budapest, Hungary
“Shirin Neshat: Our House is on Fire”, Rauschenberg Foundation Project Space, New York, USA

2013
“Shirin Neshat: Written on the Body”, Espacio Fundación Telefónica, Madrid, Spain
“Shirin Neshat”, Dirimart, Istanbul, Turkey
“The Book of Kings”, Faurschou Foundation, Beijing, China
Shirin Neshat, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, Michigan, USA

2012
“Games of Desire”, Art Plural Gallery, Singapore
“The Book of Kings”, Gladstone Gallery, New York, USA

Selected recent Group exhibitions –

2019
21st Biennial of Art of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, International Santa Cruz, Bolivia
“ÜberMauer”, BAM-Biennale Arcipelago Mediterraneo, Fondazione Merz, Palermo, Italy
“O – Della materia spirituale dell’arte,” MAXXI, Rome
“She Who Tells a Story: Women Photographers from Iran and the Arab World,” Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina
“Bodies of Knowledge,” New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana
“Here we are Today: A View of the World in Photography and Video Art,” Bucerius Kunst Forum, Hamburg, Germany
“She Persists,” Heist Pavilion at the Venice Biennale Palazzo Benzon, Venice, Italy

20th Century Anniversary exhibition, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona, USA
‘Now is The Time’, Wuzhen International Contemporary Art Exhibition, China
Total Arts at the Courtyard, Dubai, UAE
“Fashions at the de Young”, Museum Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt Germany
“Artists Need to Create on the Same Scale that Society Has the Capacity to Destroy: Meditations on the Mediterranean Sea”, Collateral Project at the Venice Biennale
‘Here We Are Today’ ‘Das Bild Der Welt’ In Foto & VideoKunst
2018  Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala, India
Contemporary Muslim Fashions, de Young Museum, San Francisco
In Context, This Past was waiting for me, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
The Time. The Place. Contemporary Art, Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, USA
War is Over. Art and conflicts between myth and contemporaneity, Museo d’Arte della città di Ravenna, Ravenna, Italy
The Future of Film is Female, Museum of Modern Art, Film Series, New York
In the Fields of Empty Days: The Intersection of Past and Present in Iranian Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
Lahore Biennale 01, Lahore, Pakistan
Quel Amour!, Musée d’Art Contemporain, Marseille, France

2017  She Who Tells a StoryCanadian War Museum, Ottawa, Canada
Lo schermo dell’arte Film Festival 2017Florence, Italy
Aging PrideBelvedere Museum, Vienna
Like a Moth to a FlameFondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy
COUNT/RECOUNT: Feminist Film and VideoHirshhorn Museum, Washington DC
Truth: 24 frames per secondDallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas
Artists Need to Create on the Same Scale That Society Has the Capacity to Destroy, Part 1, MANA Contemporary, Jersey City, New Jersey
I Am YouMCA Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Modes of Behavior Towards People When Affection Plays a Part. Klein Collection_Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany
Selected Sean Kelly, New York
Beyond the Ban: Contemporary Iranian Art,” Center for Human Rights in IranSusan Eley Fine Art, New York
Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians—The Mohammed Afkhami CollectionAga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada
Wrong Side of HistoryBullet Space, New York
In Between: Contemporary Iranian Art Part 1 Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, New Jersey
KLM Art CollectionMuseum Jan van der Togt, Amstelveen, Netherlands
21, 39 Jeddah ArtsSaudi Art Council, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

2016  Summer Show, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
New Revolutions: Goodman at 50, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Looking at the World Around You: Contemporary Works from Qatar Museums, Santander Art Gallery, Madrid, Spain

Seeing|Saying: Images and WordsVan Every/Smith Galleries, Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina

Behind the Curtain. Concealment and Revelation since the RenaissanceMuseum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany

She: International Women Artists ExhibitionLong Museum West Bund, Shanghai, China

Looking at the World Around You: Contemporary Works from Qatar MuseumsSantander Art Gallery, Madrid

2015 Islamic Art Now: Contemporary Art of the Middle East, LACMA, Los Angeles, USA

She Who Tells a Story: Women Photographers from Iran and the Arab World, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, Stanford, CA [Traveled to: Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburg]

Gender in Art, Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, Krakow, Poland

Diverse Works: Director’s Choice, 1997-2015, Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA

Looking Women, Casa dei Tre Oci, Venice, Italy

The Mannequin of History: Art After Fabrications of Critique and Culture, Manifattura dei Tabacchi, Modena, Italy

Us Is Them, Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, Ohio, USA

About Trees, Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland

Phantom Bodies, The First Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

2014 The future (looking forward), La Biennale de Montréal, Montreal, Canada

Manifest Intention. Drawing In All Its Forms, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy

Time Present. Photography from the Deutsche Bank Collection, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

The New International, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia

Songs of Loss and Songs of Love, Gwangju Museum of Art, South Korea

Look at Me: Portraiture from Manet to the Present, Lelia Heller Gallery, New York, USA

I Look at Things... Work From the Collection, Faurschou Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark

CONFLICT: Art and War, Contemporary Art Society, London, UK
Shirin Neshat: Don't Ask Where the Love is Gone, Moscow Photobiennale 2014, Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, Russia

Pionnières: Lynda Benglis, Louise Bourgeois, Marlene Dumas, Tracey Emin, Roni Horn, Shirin Neshat, Cindy Sherman, Nancy Spero, Niki De Saint Phalle, CAB Art Center, Brussels

ToledoContemporánea, Centro Cultural San Marcos, Toledo, Spain

2013 My Third Land, Frankendael Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Collection Exhibition II, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
Come Together: Surviving Sandy, Year 1, Industry City, New York, USA
The Ghost of Architecture: Recent and Promised Gifts, Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, USA
SKIN, an artistic atlas, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland
She Who Tells a Story: Women Photographers from Iran and the Arab World, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
Legacy: Photographs from the Emily Fisher Landau Collection, the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut, USA
Displaced Visions Emigré Photographers of the 20th Century, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
All You Need is Love, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

Awards and Grants

2017 Praemium Imperiale Award, Tokyo
2016 USA Rockefeller Fellow, United States Artists, New York
2014 Crystal Award, World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland
2009 Silver Lion, 66th Venice Film Festival
Cinema for Peace Special Award, Hessischer Filmpreis, Germany
2008 Rockefeller Foundation Media Arts Fellowship, New York
Cultural Achievement Award, Asia Society, New York
2006 Lillian Gish Prize, New York
2005 Hiroshima Art Prize, Hiroshima City Museum of Art, Hiroshima, Japan
2003 ZeroOne Award, Universität der Künste, Berlin
Fine Art Prize, Heitland Foundation, Celle, Germany
2002
Infinity Award for Visual Art, International Center for Photography, New York
2000
Grand Prix, Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, Korea
1999
First International Prize, 48th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Prize for Best Project, ARCO, Madrid

Feature Films
2017  “Looking for Oum Kulthum,” directed by Shirin Neshat, in collaboration with Shoja Azari

2009  “Women Without Men,” directed by Shirin Neshat, in collaboration with Shoja Azari

Performances
2017  “Aida,” Salzburg Festival, Salzburg, Austria
2002  “Logic of the Birds,” Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, June 20 - 23
       “Logic of the Birds,” Lincoln Center, New York, July 12 - 13
       “Logic of the Birds,” ArtAngel, London, November 7-17
2001  “Logic of the Birds (Phase One),” The Kitchen, New York