



Fotografiska Berlin presents

Shirin Neshat: *The Fury*

Opening 7 March 2024, 6–11pm
Run time 8 March – 9 June 2024

ARTIST TALK: 8 March, 18:30

On the International Women's Day Shirin Neshat talks together with Marina Paulenka about her new video work and experiences she has made as an Iranian artist in the USA.

Fotografiska Berlin presents *The Fury*, the latest exhibition by acclaimed Iranian artist and filmmaker Shirin Neshat. Focused on the nuanced complexities surrounding the sexual exploitation of female political prisoners, Neshat places her focus within the context of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Throughout her extensive artistic career, the New York-based artist has consistently grappled with the intricacies of the female body in Islamic cultures. Her work navigates this terrain as a contested space, encompassing themes of sin, shame, violence, repression, rebellion, power, and protest.

The Fury unfolds as a sophisticated amalgamation of a double-channel video installation and a series of black and white photographs featuring hand-inscribed calligraphy of poems by Iranian poet Forough Farrokhzad. These nuanced works echo Neshat's incisive artmaking practice, spotlighting the female body as both a battleground for ideology and a reservoir of strength. By probing the dynamics between the masculine and feminine, the individual and the collective, these charged images delve into issues of power within patriarchal societies.

Neshat elucidates her artistic perspective, stating, "*I see everything in the form of duality. Visually and conceptually, everything is based on some notion of opposites.*" Shot predominantly in black and white, her work embraces the stylistic influences of magic realism, surrealism, and dreams. Thematically, the narratives are consistently politically charged, offering a poignant blend of disturbance and emotion, poetry, and beauty.

The video installation within *The Fury* delves into the highly fictionalized and stylized representation of the sexual assault endured by female political prisoners subjected to severe torture, including rape. Recognizing the lasting emotional scars post-release, the exhibition traces the psychological and emotional journey of a young Iranian woman, now residing in the United States, haunted by memories of her captivity. Complementing this narrative is a photographic series that directly confronts the female body as both an object of desire and violence.



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Set against the backdrop of the Spring of 2022, predating the "Woman, Life, Freedom" Revolution, these poignant series remain remarkably relevant as numerous Iranian men and women persist as political prisoners. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Fotografiska Berlin is now showing this exhibition after its presentation at Fotografiska

Stockholm and the Goodman Gallery in London. The exhibition, curated by Marina Paulenka, Director of Exhibitions, offers a nuanced exploration of the intersection between art, politics, and the human experience.

Shirin Neshat (*1957, Qazvin, Iran) is an Iran-born artist and filmmaker living in New York. She works and continues to experiment with the mediums of photography, video and film, which she imbues with highly poetic and politically charged images and narratives that question issues of power, religion, race, gender and the relationship between the past and present, East and West, individual and collective through the lens of her personal experiences as an Iranian woman living in exile.

The artist has held numerous solo exhibitions at museums internationally including the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; The Broad, Los Angeles; Museo Correr, Venice, Italy; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C. and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Shirin Neshat has directed three feature-length films, *Women Without Men* (2009), which received the Silver Lion Award for Best Director at the 66th Venice International Film Festival, *Looking For Oum Kulthum* (2017), and most recently *Land of Dreams*, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival (2021).

Neshat was awarded the Golden Lion Award, the First International Prize at the 48th Biennale di Venezia (1999), the Hiroshima Freedom Prize (2005), the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize (2006) and in 2017, she received the prestigious Praemium Imperiale Award in Tokyo.

She is represented by Gladstone Gallery in New York and Goodman Gallery in London.

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Opening hours: daily from 10am to 11pm