

**SADEGH TIRAFKAN**

Iranian, born 1965



Tirafkan was born in Karbala, Iraq, to Iranian parents. He now lives in Tehran, and is increasingly spending more time in London. He graduated from Tehran University with a degree in photography in 1989 and has held many solo exhibitions in Iran, Canada, and USA, and participated in numerous group exhibitions worldwide. His work has often sold successfully at auction, both in Dubai and at major London and Paris sales. His works are in the collections of several museums including the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, The British Museum, Brooklyn Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Tirafkan's work spans photography, video and installation and focuses mainly on his culture, identity and gender. He has explained that his work is based on how people perceive each other "I began photography by recording what surrounded me, now I take what is around me into the studio and make it into what I see through the prism of my life and culture. An idea starts as a photograph but it may grow into a collage or a video." We are proud to be exhibiting the *Men in Black* series that has never been shown before.

*Men in Black* relates to 'The Ashoura' which is a religious festival to commemorate the death of Husayn, the grandson of the prophet Mohammad. Sadegh also observes that "it is very manly event, men bring their young sons to join them, they come from all over the city, and from all aspects of the society be it rich and poor. I have tried to display all aspects of the ceremony, the look, the feel and emotions of the participants."

**Brief Biography**

Tirafkan was six years of age his family fled the country before the start of the Islamic revolution. His family returned to Tehran where he grew up. As a young man, Tirafkan fought in the eight year long Iran - Iraq war in the 1980's as a Basiji or conscripted soldier. The artist is extremely proud to be Iranian and much of his work is characterised by a strong emphasis on the intrinsic role of the male in traditional Iranian society.

He graduated from Tehran University with a degree in Photography in 1989 and has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions worldwide. Tirafkan's work was exhibited earlier this Summer in *Iran Inside Out* at the Chelsea Museum in New York. His works are in the collections of several museums including the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, British Museum, Brooklyn Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.