

**SAMIRA ALIKHANZADEH**

Iranian, born 1967



Alikhanzadeh lives and work in Tehran.

She exhibits regularly in her home country and has taken part in many group exhibitions internationally, including *Whispered Secrets*, *Murmuring Dreams* and *Masques of Shahrazad* at the Mall Galleries in London and *Broken Promises*, *Forbidden Dreams* at the Iran Heritage Foundation in London.

Her early work featured many windows, focusing on the effects of light on interiors when filtering through windows. The methods have changed in her current work, but she retains the concept of looking through windows as she takes the position of an observer by creating window-like openings to the interiors within her compositions.

Human figures and forms are introduced in 'found photographs'. Purely by accident, Alikhanzadeh chanced upon a box of old photographs, depicting mainly women and children, which she took home and began applying to her canvases. To these she often applies shards of mirror and through the resulting reflections, she incorporates the viewer into her pieces, and so encourages us to think about our identity and heritage. She explains that "the viewer in turn becomes a part of the composition and possible descendants of the subjects, looking into a past, or perhaps like me, satisfying their voyeuristic urge to enter the lives and memories of generations gone by." Although her subjects are unidentified, they are infused with philosophical questions of identity, existence and time.

**Brief Biography**

Alikhanzadeh was born in Tehran, Iran in 1967. She studied painting at the Azad University in Tehran continuing at the same school to complete her MA. She has held solo exhibitions in the Golestan Gallery in Tehran in 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2008.

She has exhibited in group exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran on a number of occasions. Other galleries include the Ataturk Cultural Centre, Istanbul in 2001; the Niavaran Cultural Centre, 1999; the *Iranian Artist's Forum* in 2001; and the *Conceptual Art exhibition* in the Barg Gallery, 2001. In total, she has exhibited in over 25 group exhibitions since 1995 in the UK, USA, UAE, Italy, France, Canada, Kuwait & Turkey.