

different samās

New Perspectives in
Contemporary Iranian Art



Editor
Hossein Amirsadeghi

Essays
Hamid Keshmirshakar
Mark Irving
Anthony Downey

Different Sames

New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art

Editor: Hossein Amirsadeghi

With essays by Hamid Keshmirshekan,

Mark Irving and Anthony Downey

Long considered a bastion of creativity in the region, Iran is currently experiencing a remarkable artistic revival in the middle of the most challenging of circumstances. Iranian artists – whether based inside or outside the country – are creating remarkable works that reflect their country's social and political environment, while incorporating their own personal worldviews and those of their adopted homelands. Seen together, these works form a new and exciting movement that can only gain in importance in the coming years.

Different Sames: New Perspectives in Contemporary Iranian Art catalogues this new movement, capturing its brilliance and creative energy. Packed with wonderful images, it is an important and lively compendium of thought-provoking essays, historical context and profiles of the leading artists, whether well-established (such as Parviz Tanavoli and Monir Farmanfarmaian), internationally recognized (such as Shirin Neshat, Y. Z. Kami or Mitra Tabrizian), or emerging (such as Ali Banisadr or Tala Madani). Exclusive interviews with the key artists, collectors and curators offer fascinating new insights, and allow the book to explore the differences and similarities between current international movements in art and the art produced both in Iran and by artists of the Persian Diaspora.

Art changes the way we look at the world, and *Different Sames* is an attempt to explain today's Iranian art movement in this spirit.

With 586 illustrations

On the jacket:

front

Timo Nasser

Epistrophy #1, 2008

Polished stainless steel, 150 x 150 x 100 cm

© Timo Nasser, courtesy galerie schleicher+lange, Paris

back

Mehdi Farhadian

Twins, 2008

Acrylic on canvas, 190 x 150 cm

© Mehdi Farhadian, private collection, London

For Ali Asghar Amirsadeghi
Father, salt of the earth

TransGlobe Publishing Limited
35 Old Queen Street
London SW1H 9JD
United Kingdom

info@tgpublishingltd.com

First published by
Thames & Hudson in association with
TransGlobe Publishing Limited
© 2009 TransGlobe Publishing

Text and captions copyright:
© 2009 Hossein Amirsadeghi

Distributed worldwide
[except in the United States, Canada and the
United Arab Emirates]:
Thames & Hudson Ltd.
181A High Holborn
London, WC1V 7QX
United Kingdom

www.thamesandhudson.com

ISBN: 978-0-9545083-4-0

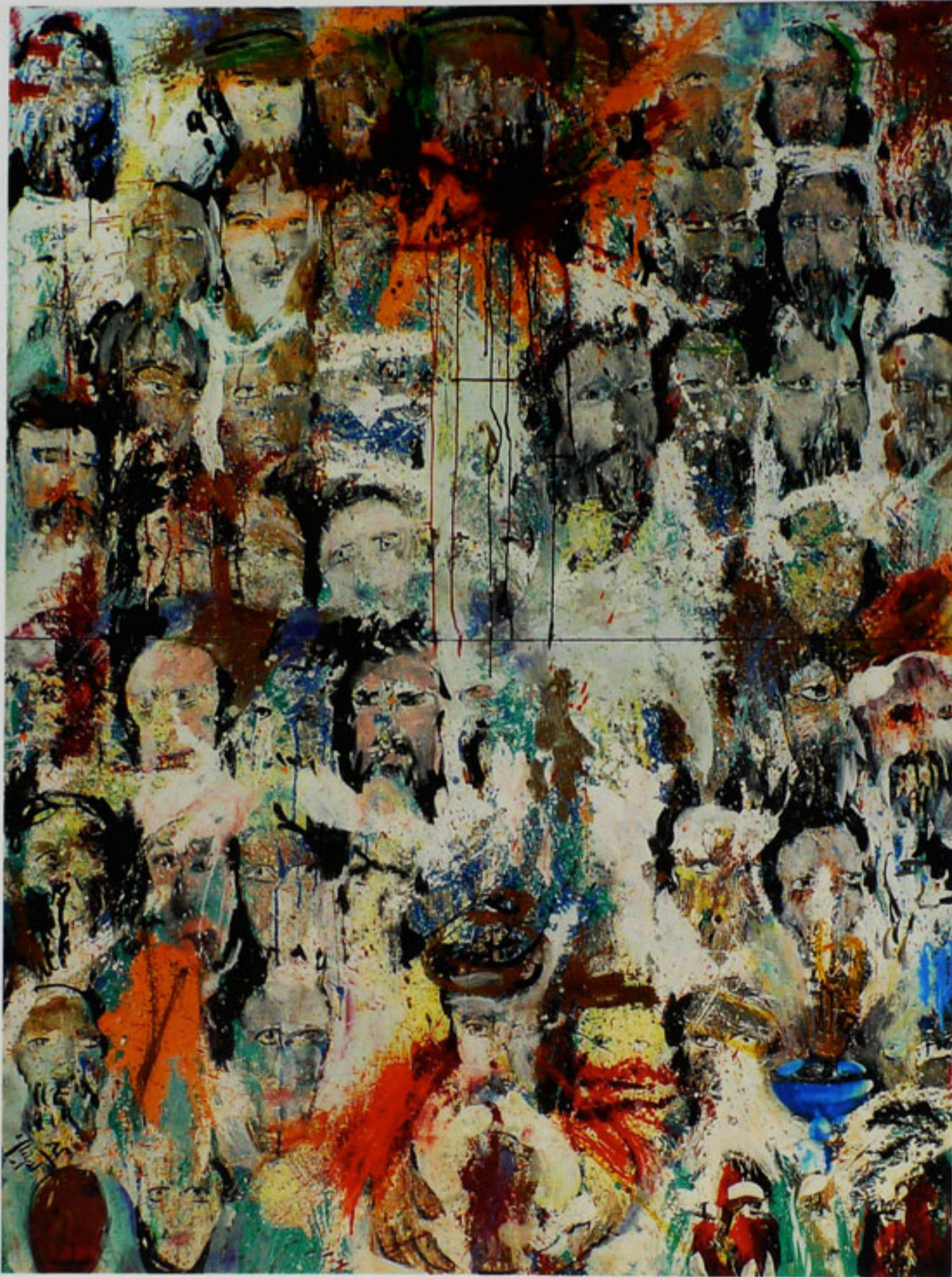
A CIP catalogue for this book is available from
the British Library

The authors have asserted their moral rights to
be identified as the authors of this book.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication
may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system
or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording
or otherwise, without the written permission of
TransGlobe Publishing Limited.

Designed by Struktur Design Limited
Printed in Singapore

previous page
Hassan Sarbakhshian
From the 'Daily Life' series
Photograph
© Hassan Sarbakhshian
Courtesy of Hassan Sarbakhshian
Silk Road Gallery, Tehran



above
The Seventy Two, 2003
 Mixed media on canvas
 (in two parts)
 200 x 150 cm
 Private collection, London

Born in 1976 in Tehran, Alireza Adambakan studied painting at Azad University in the same city, graduating in 1999. Since then he has exhibited his paintings widely inside Iran, where he continues to live and work. He is also an active member of the Iranian Society of Painters.

Adambakan is first and foremost a painter, working typically in oils, although he has also worked in other media such as fresco. His paintings cover a wide range of subjects – sometimes figures, sometimes elements of architecture, more recently landscapes – though the forms are often blurred and partially obscured by the expressionistic brushwork; indeed, some of his works even border on the abstract. What unites them, however, is a love of shimmering colour.

right
Untitled, 2008
 Oil on cardboard
 50 x 65 cm
 © Alireza Adambakan
 Courtesy of Alireza Adambakan and Assar Art Gallery, Tehran

