

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOCIAL ORDER: WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM IRAN, INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN

It does not make a difference to me what place the Iranian woman has in the world because I am sure no one knows much about it -Shadi Ghadirian

The Photo Center NW is pleased to announce **Social Order: Women Photographers from Iran, India and Afghanistan**. This important exhibition features five contemporary women artists whose work explores the role of women in the context of cultural constructs, religion, censorship and the media. This exhibition draws powerful parallels and invites us all to reconsider our personal roles as advocates of tolerance and diversity in our cities.

Shadi Ghadirian creates photographs of women from two eras, unclear as to what time they belong. She presents women that appear to be from the turn of the century, however they each carry a modern object that was smuggled into contemporary Iran. These images represent a defiant study of female emancipation in the face of political and social adversity. From **Priya Kampli's** visual explorations of the transience and split cultural identity caused by the act of migration, to **Annu Palakunnathu Matthew's** play on her individual "otherness."

Each of these artists has left an important mark on the world of contemporary photography through their courageous and relevant work. Afghan-American artist **Gazelle Samizay** uses video installations and photographs to address her bi-cultural upbringing to negotiate the space between "Afghan" and "American" women. **Manjari Sharma** collaborates with skilled Indian craftsmen and creatives to produce epic photographic recreations of 9 classical images of gods and goddesses pivotal to mythological stories in Hinduism.

The Photo Center takes great pride in presenting exhibitions and is aware of the powerful impact images can make on our community. We are committed to bringing exceptional works to the Pacific Northwest and engaging our visitors in understanding new cultures, asking tough questions, and shedding light on important global issues through photography.

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