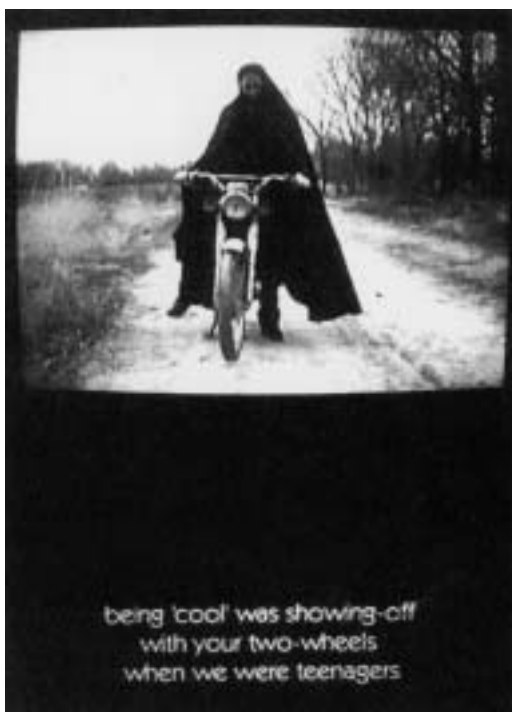


Iran - Art after Khomeini

Developments since the 1980s



A still from the video series *Me* (1998-2000) Ghazal

A Lecture by
Edward Lucie-Smith

Thursday
14 November 2002
6.30-7.30pm

Stevenson Lecture Theatre
The British Museum
Great Russell Street
London WC1

In this lecture Edward Lucie-Smith considers the changes which have overtaken Iranian contemporary art during the last two decades - from militant propaganda for the Islamic Revolution to current conceptual and feminist work. Iranian art is struggling to make a place for itself in the modern world, without losing characteristics that make it specific to the long tradition of Iranian civilisation.

Westerners tend to think in terms of what is not permitted in Iran for religious reasons, for example realistic representations of the nude. Iranian artists look at things in a more positive way - at the relationship between Western abstraction and Islamic calligraphy. They are also fascinated by newer methods of image-making - ones that do not carry with them the whole burden of Western Renaissance tradition. Photography, and computer digitisation, have come to play important roles in Iranian art as has the notion of the 'conceptual' which meshes easily with established elements in Islamic thought.

Art historian and critic Edward Lucie-Smith has written numerous art books, including the widely circulated *Art Today* and *Movements in Art since 1945*. His latest book *Art Tomorrow*, which will be published in October 2002, includes work by a number of Iranian artists and is a survey of the most recent developments in contemporary art. He has visited Iran three times in the last two years.

Tickets available from Asia House

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