

## News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

4 February – 26 March 2006

### **Shirana Shahbazi**

Admission free

Preview: 3 Feb | 17.30 – 20.00 | All press & media welcome

Exhibition supported by Pro Helvetia, Arts Council of Switzerland  
Produced by Centre d'Art Contemporain, Genève



[HUNLI-01-2004] from 'Real Love/Shanghai' Courtesy the artist and Galerie Bov van Orsouw, Zurich



[Shanghai-02-2004] from 'Real Love/Shanghai' Courtesy the artist and Galerie Bov van Orsouw, Zurich

Milton Keynes Gallery (MK G) presents the first solo exhibition in a UK public gallery in almost five years by the 2002 Citibank Photography Prizewinner Shirana Shahbazi. This exhibition will comprise new and recent work, including around forty photographs and a specially commissioned wall painting.

Shahbazi's images are taken all over the world, in Asia, the Americas, Europe and Africa. She uses photography to explore the classic genres of art history; portraiture, still life, landscape and history painting, examining the creation of a picture and how it might be read. The work exists in varying formats, from the small to the monumental, where the subject matter ranges from the incidental to the epic. Each time her photographs are exhibited, Shahbazi creates new arrangements, providing the opportunity for a new reading of the same images.

Her best known series *Goftare Nik/Good Words (2000-2001)* takes its title from the Zoroastrian maxim 'good thoughts, good words, good deeds'. Photographed in and around Tehran, it is a compendium of social role models and phenomena.

Alongside the use of photography, Shahbazi employs a range of craft techniques in her work, reflecting traditions of image and surface making. This exhibition includes an exquisite hand woven tapestry featuring an image derived from Shahbazi's original photographs as well as a newly commissioned wall painting by Iranian painters employed in the advertising industry and an installation of artist-designed posters.

Iranian-German artist Shirana Shahbazi (b. 1974 Tehran) lives and works in Zurich. She has exhibited extensively internationally, including The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago (2003), Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2002), The Photographer's Gallery, London (2001), the 50<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale (2003) and the 6<sup>th</sup> Sharjah International Biennial (2005).

A catalogue, 'Shirana Shahbazi: Accept the Unexpected', published by the Centre d'Art Contemporain, Genève will be available. Price £20 (£18 Friends of MK G).

### **Related Event**

#### **In Conversation with Katya Garcia Anton**

Wed 8 March | 19.30 | Tickets £5 (£3 concs) to include a glass of wine  
An opportunity to hear Katya Garcia Anton, Director of the Centre d'Art Contemporain, Genève, speak about Shahbazi's work. Doors open at 19.00.

#### **Saturday Art Trolley**

Every Saturday | 11.00-13.00 | Free | No need to book  
Art activities for ages 4-12, based on the content of the current exhibitions.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **February Half Term ArtsWorld Workshops**

**From Photo to Fabric** | Wed 15 Feb | 6-8 years | 10.00-12.00 or 13.00-15.00 | £5 per session. Transfer your favourite photo onto a T-shirt.

**Photos First** | Thurs 16 Feb | 9-12 years | 10.00-15.00 | £12.50

Explore the Shahbazi exhibition then come on a journey to create an artwork, starting with a photo. Places limited. Bookings from 10 Jan 2006.

**Press Information** | For further information, press images, or interview requests, please contact Giselle Richardson, Press & Marketing Co-ordinator:

Tel: 01908 558 302 or email: [g.richardson@mk-g.org](mailto:g.richardson@mk-g.org)

**Admission free** | Open: Tues – Sat 10.00-17.00 | Sundays 11.00 – 17.00 | Closed Mondays (and for exhibition changeovers) | **Late Night Thursdays until 20.00**