

AFSHIN PIRHASHEMI

Iranian, born 1974



Pirhashemi is one of Iran's younger generation of highly talented artists, and he has achieved much critical and commercial acclaim both in the region and internationally. He is an extremely active artist who has already enjoyed great success: at the age of 35 he has had 15 solo exhibitions and been involved with over 50 group exhibitions. He has also had success at auction, for

example one work, from his recent *X-series*, achieved the price of \$122,500 earlier this year, and his famous *Lonely* triptych made \$133,000 at auction last year.

Pirhashemi captures in particular the duality of Iranian society, set in stark black and white tones; his subjects stand in defiance of social expectations. Pirhashemi's paintings explore the complexities of life in today's Iran through his unique combinations of carefully controlled photo-realistic depictions of Iranian figures and Gothic fantasy. He uses black and white almost exclusively in his paintings, with sparse backgrounds exposing empty voids surrounding his figures. These bold paintings are powerful comments on contemporary identity.

Brief Biography

Pirhashemi lives and works in Tehran having recently completed his BA at Azad University in Tehran. Despite his relative youth, he won several prizes including the Beijing Art Biennial Award in 2004. He was winner of the Juror's Choice award at Tehran's 6th Biennale in Iran in 2003 among others.

He is a very active artist who has already had 15 solo exhibitions including one at the Silk Road Gallery in Madrid, earlier this year. His work has been exhibited in over 50 group exhibitions including *East of Imagination* in 2006 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Pirhashemi has a busy schedule ahead already this year and is working on a new series in his studio in Tehran.