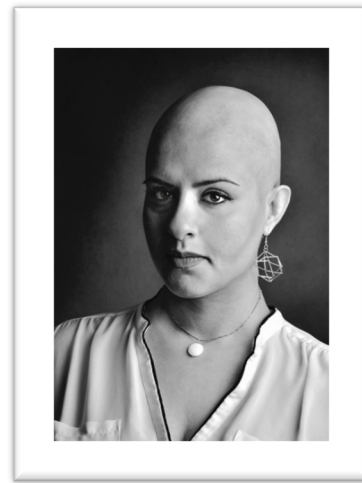


TAHMINEH MONZAVI



TAHMINEH MONZAVI



Tahmineh Monzavi (b. 1988, Iran) is a photographer, video artist, documentary filmmaker and producer, who lives and works in Tehran. She began her professional career in 2005, finding inspiration in the social issues that impact women, marginalized populations and oppressed communities, but also in the neglected environment and the fragile cultural patrimony of her native Iran and neighboring Afghanistan.

In 2012, at 23, Monzavi was arrested by Iranian security forces. Her sentence: 30 days in solitary confinement in the notorious Evin Prison, followed by 90 days house arrest. The strain of that cruel and absurd punishment caused her great harm, resulting in Monzavi losing her hair permanently, a visible scar she still carries today. Monzavi's outlook on her work was changed after a month of imprisonment. In the absence of human contact, she started to doubt her existence. In that dark hour of forced isolation Tahmineh was desperate for a company and started to fantasize being pregnant, which resulted in the video art piece *OXYS in black and white*.

Fearless and unabated, Monzavi continues to focus her lens on the downtrodden in Iran, finding beauty and poetry in her country's vibrant underground culture, in the working-class neighborhoods of old Tehran, in the lifestyles of nomadic populations, in her homeland's natural vistas and majestic architectural ruins, and in the crumbling cultural heritage of a war-riddled Afghanistan. Her works have been exhibited nationally and internationally: Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), MAXXI museum of Roma, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and many others.

Her works have also been published by number of reputable magazines such as "New York times", "Internazionale", "Parismatch", "British Journal of photography", "Le Figaro", "L'oeil de la photographie", "Elle"; they have also been featured in a few photography books like, "La Photographie Iranienne- published by LOCO", "Iran unedited history 1960-2014" published by Muse D'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, "Iran 38" by Texuel edition.

Tahmineh Monzavi is also known as a film director and producer. Sometimes her photography and film work merge into continuous subject of artistic exploration. For example, the Grape garden alley series in 2010-2012 developed into a feature length documentary film about a shelter for addicted women in Tehran. As a co-director. She had an important interview in this film with Jean Cloud Carrier. Tahmineh received international recognition with the film *About the Salesman* (2018), A film about a film which won two trophies for the Best Actor and Best Screenplay at the Cannes Film Festival in 2016 and the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2017.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC SERIES

a selection



The Zangi Women (2020 - 2022)

A little-known community of Afro-Iranian descent known as the “Zangis” settled in Iran 200 years ago, driven by Arab slave traders from southeast Africa (modern-day Tanzania, Mozambique). This series focuses on Zangi women living in Balouchestan, their lifestyles isolated from modern society, and their esoteric cultural practices.



The Zangi Women series (2020 - 2022)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 52 x 70 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



The Zangi Women series (2020 - 2022)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 52 x 70 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



The Zangi Women series (2020 - 2022)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



The Zangi Women series (2020 - 2022)
 Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 00 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



The Zangi Women series (2020 - 2022)
 Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA

LUT / BADLAND / HAMOUN

The Lut Desert (2021 - 2022)

The desert known as "Lut" in southeastern Iran, is one of the hottest places on Earth, and home to extraordinary landscapes of dunes and rock formations, organic shapes that through Monzavi's lens, become sensual and abstract.



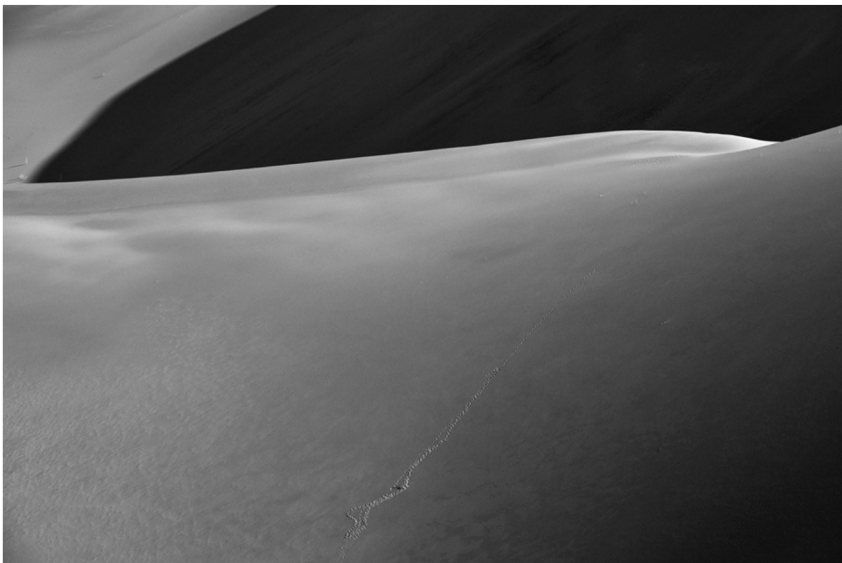
LUT series (2021)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 108 x 162 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



LUT series (2021)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr,
100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



LUT series (2021)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA

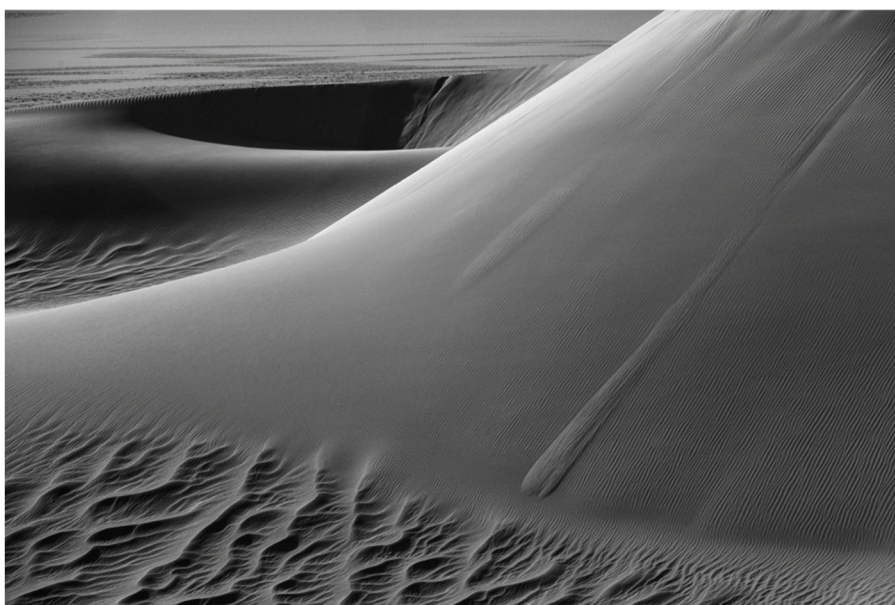


LUT series (2021)
Digital print,
traditional paper 330
gr, 100 x 75 cm,
Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



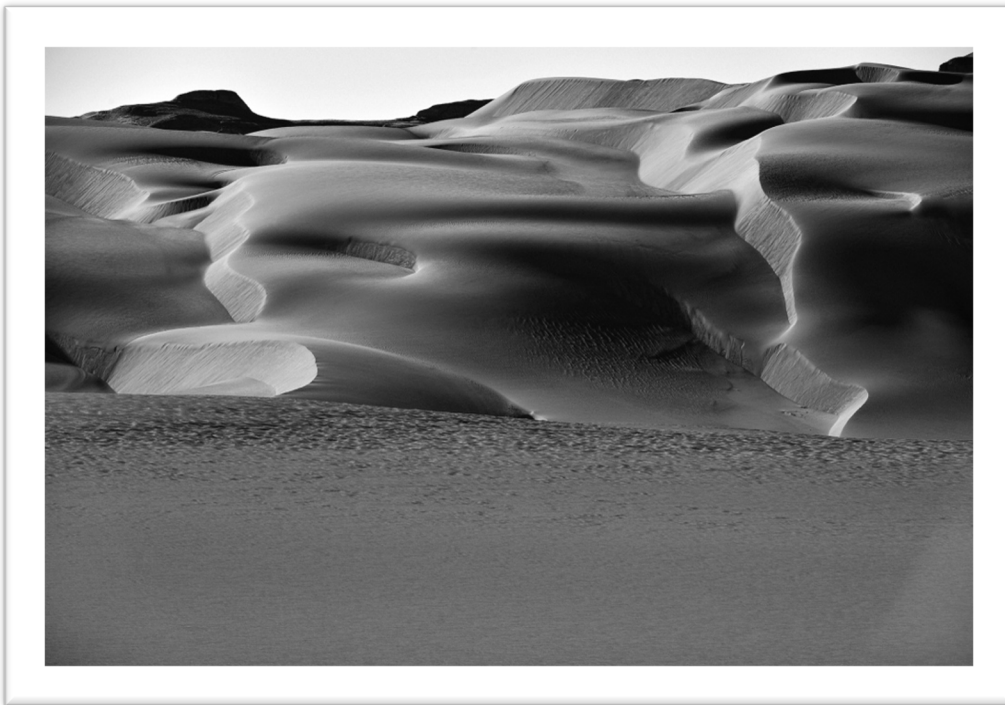
LUT series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



LUT series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



LUT series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



LUT series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 100 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



BadLand



BadLand series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



BadLand series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



BadLand series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper
330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition
3/10 + 2 EA



BadLand series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 50 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



BadLand series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 50 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2



BadLand series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 50 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



BadLand series (2021)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 50 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA

Hamoun or A Life in Front of You (2019 - 2021)

This series focuses on Lake Hamoun, once the largest sweet-water lake in Iran, and the nomadic populations that rely on its wetlands as a life source. The images capture the effects of a decades-long drought that has devastated the lake and the surrounding region and displaced populations in the Sistan-Balouchestan province of Iran near the Afghan border.



Hamoun or A life in front of you series (2019 - 2022)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Hamoun or A life in front of you series (2019 - 2022)
 Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Hamoun or A life in front of you series (2019 - 2022)
 Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Hamoun or A life in front of you series (2019 - 2022)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Hamoun or A life in front of you series (2019 - 2022)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Hamoun or A life in front of you series (2019-2022)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Hamoun or A life in front of you series (2019 - 2022)
 Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



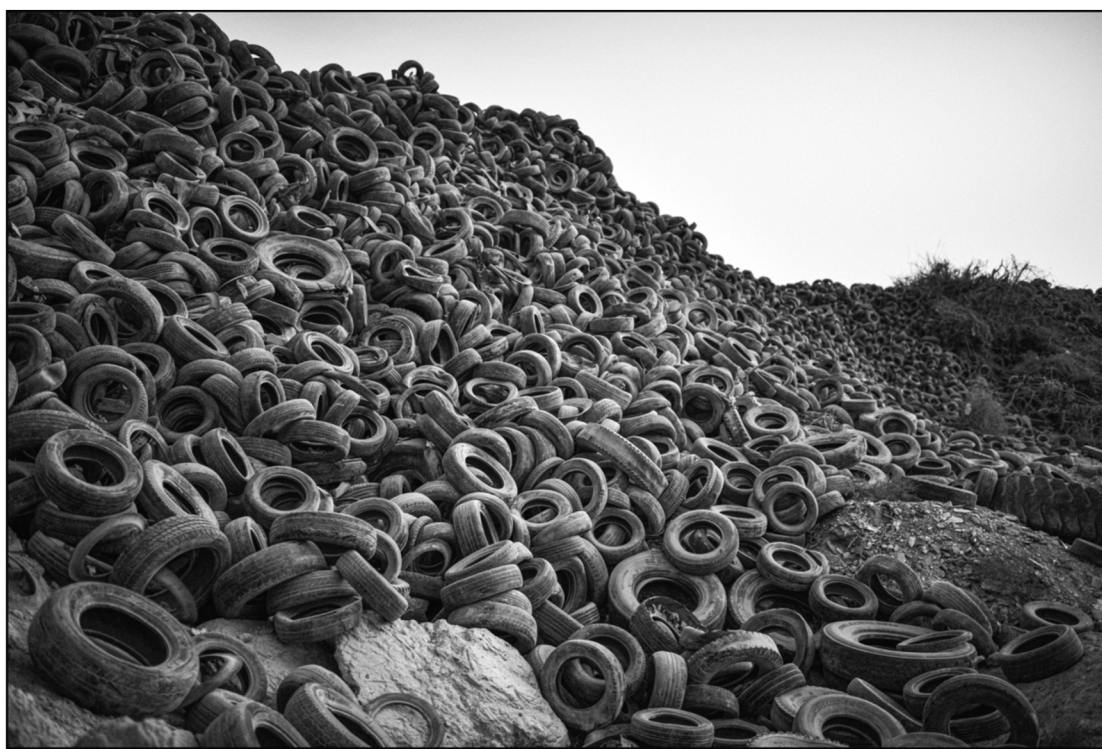
Hamoun or A life in front of you series (2019 - 2022)
 Digital print, traditional paper
 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10
 + 2 EA

Balouchestan (2019 - 2022)



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 150 x 50 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 70 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 70 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 70 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)

Digital print,
traditional paper
330 gr, 40 x 60
cm, Edition 3/10 +
2 EA



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Balouchestan series (2019 - 2022)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA

Red Soil, Cold Soil (2017 - 2018)

In this series, Monzavi examines the contrasting colors, shapes and textures of Hormuz Island in the Persian Gulf, against those captured in Svalbard, in the Longyearbyen archipelago just off the coast of Norway. Both sites are home to high political tensions and to a mystifying nature and dramatic landscapes.



Red Soil, Cold Soil series (2017 - 2018)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60x 90 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Red Soil, Cold Soil series (2017 - 2018)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 90 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Red Soil, Cold Soil series (2017 - 2018)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 90 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Red Soil, Cold Soil series (2017 - 2018)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 90 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Red Soil, Cold Soil series (2017 - 2018)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 90 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA

Past Continuous (2015 - 2017)

In this series, Monzavi focuses on the ancient architecture of Iran and Afghanistan, and explores the notion of “home” and the destruction of a cultural patrimony.



Past Continuous series (2015 - 2017)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Past Continuous series (2015 - 2017)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 6/7 + 2 EA



Past Continuous series (2015 - 2017)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/7 + 2 EA



Past Continuous series (2015 - 2017)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/7 + 2 EA



Past Continuous series (2015 - 2017)a

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 5/7 + 2 E



Past Continuous series (2015 - 2017)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA

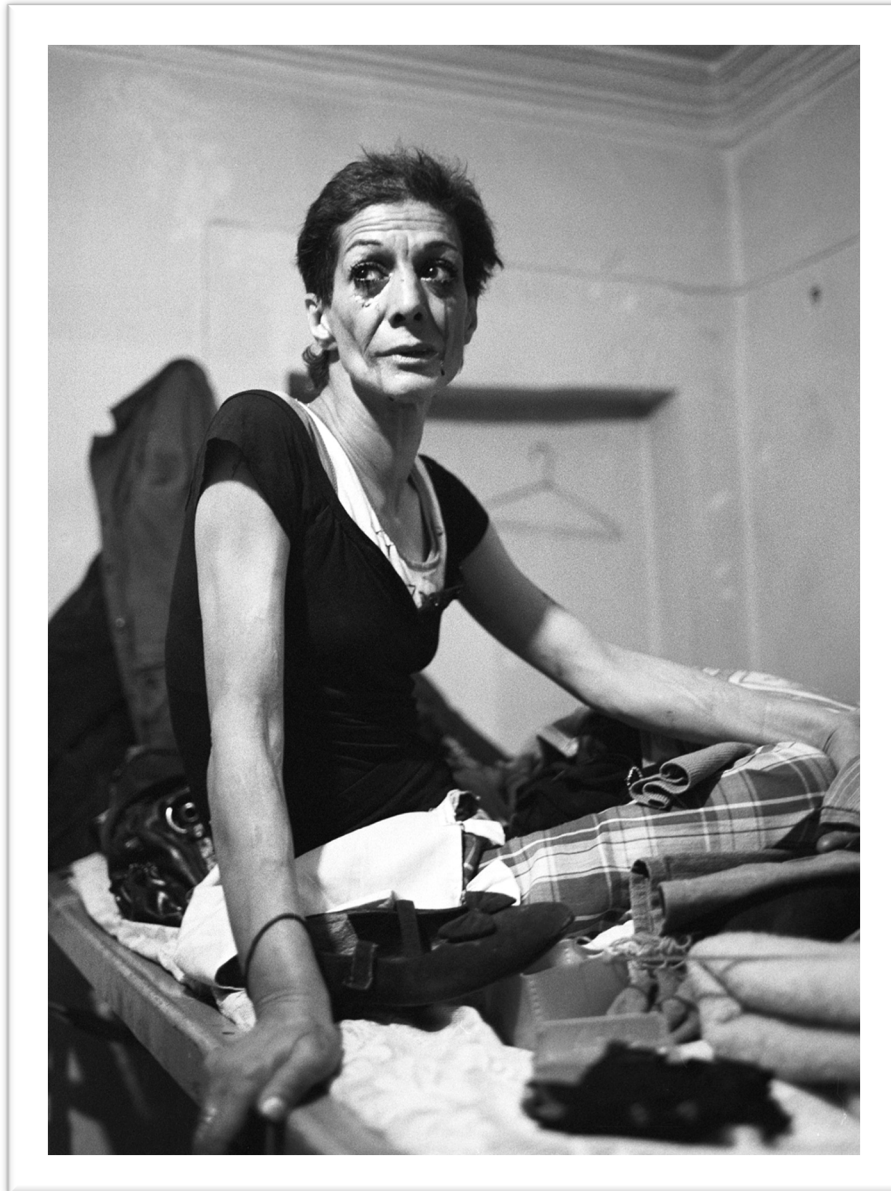


Past Continuous series (2015 - 2017)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA

Grape Garden Alley (2008 - 2012) and Tina (2010 - 2020)

This series, shot over a period of four years, takes the viewer into a back-alley refuge for female drug addicts in southern Tehran. This is where Monzavi met the transgender "Tina," a subject she tracked for 6 years and captured in haunting images, until her death in 2020.



Grape Garden Alley series (2008 - 2012)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



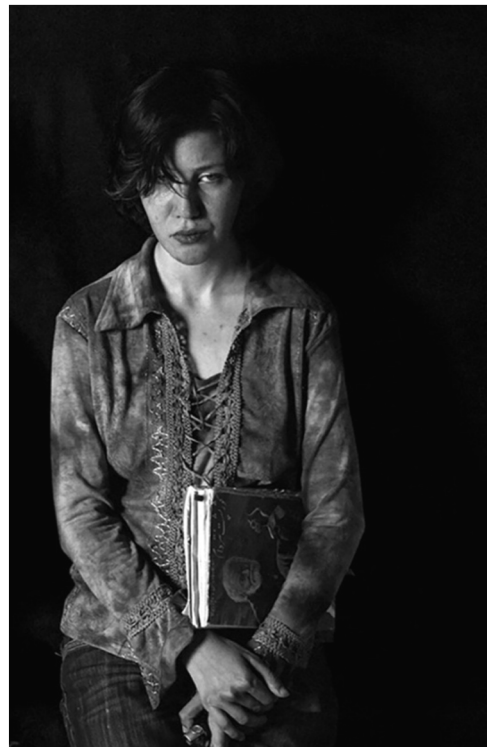
Grape Garden Alley series (2008 - 2012)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Grape Garden Alley series (2008 - 2012)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Grape Garden Alley series (2008 - 2012)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40x 60
cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Grape Garden Alley series (2008 - 2012)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



*Grape Garden
Alley series
(2008 - 2012)*

Digital print,
traditional paper
330 gr, 40 x 60
cm, Edition 3/10
+ 2 EA



Grape Garden Alley series (2008 - 2012)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 60 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Grape Garden Alley series (2008 - 2012)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA

Tina (2010 - 2020)



Tina series (2010 - 2020)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 30 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2



Tina series (2010 - 2020)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 30 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA



Tina series (2010 - 2020)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 30 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2 EA





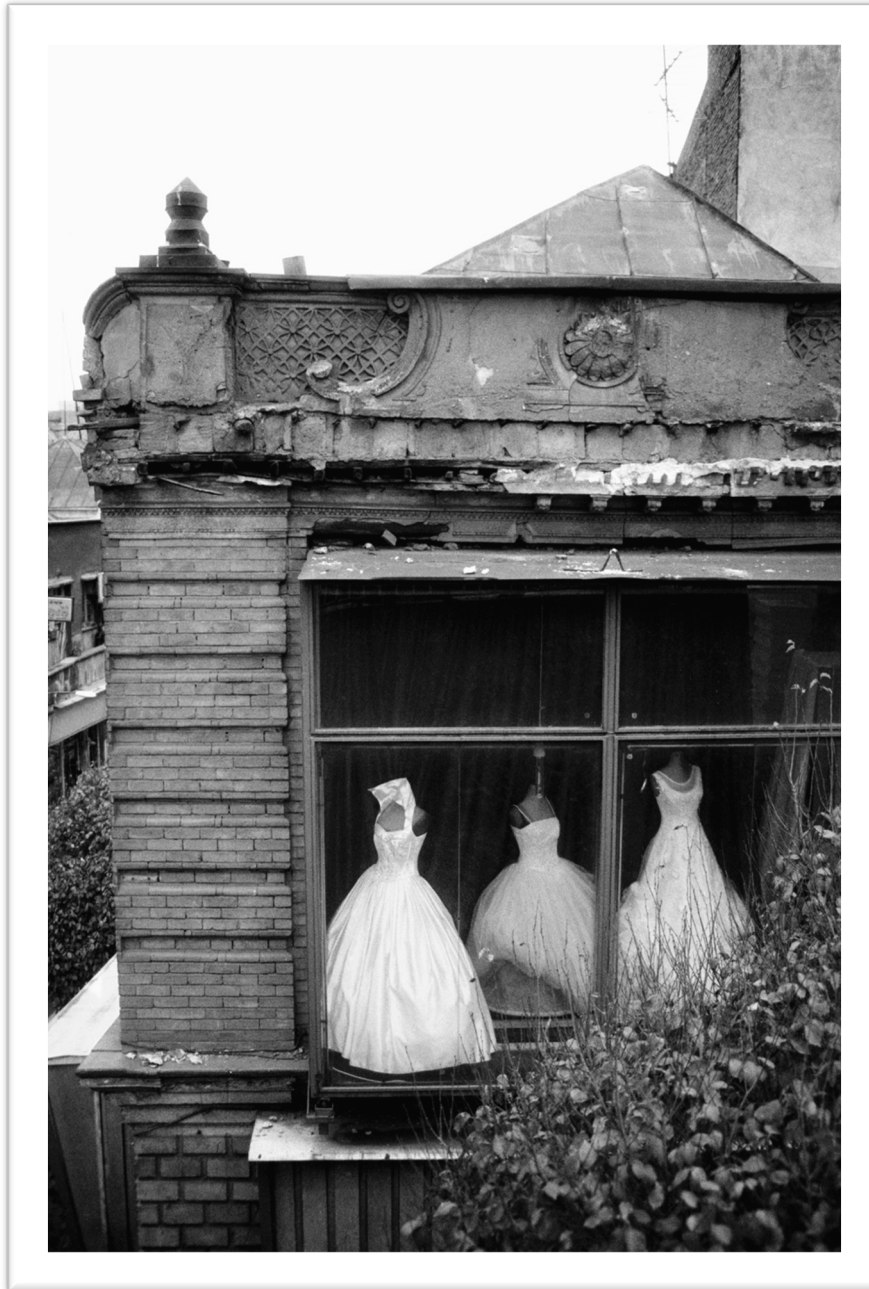
Tina series (2010 - 2020)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 30 x 40 cm, Edition 3/10 +2EA



Brides of Mokhber-al-Dowleh (2007-2009)

Shot in a working class neighborhood of southern Tehran, this series focuses on the condition of tailors sewing wedding gowns in dilapidated workshops. Working in modest surrounding, these tailors create girlish fantasies in the shape of pristine, white wedding gowns that are fitted on mannequins whose breasts are sliced off - a symbol of female mutilation - to comply with "morality" rules that prohibit men from working with a female form.



Brides of Mokhber-al-Dowleh series (2007 - 2009)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 75 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2EA



*Brides of
Mokhber-al-
Dowleh
series (2007
- 2009)*
Digital print,
traditional
paper 330
gr, 100 x 75
cm, Edition
3/10 + 2EA

*Brides of
Mokhber-al-
Dowleh series
(2007 - 2009)*
Digital
print,
traditional
paper 330 gr,
100 x 75 cm,
Edition 3/10
+ 2EA





Brides of Mokhber-al-Dowleh series (2007 - 2009)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2EA



Brides of Mokhber-al-Dowleh series (2007 - 2009)
Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 40 x 60 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2EA



Brides of Mokhber-al-Dowleh series (2007 - 2009)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 70 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2EA



Brides of Mokhber-al-Dowleh series (2007 - 2009)

Digital print, traditional paper 330 gr, 100 x 70 cm, Edition 3/10 + 2EA



*Brides of Mokhber-
al-Dowleh series
(2007 - 2009)*
Digital print,
traditional paper 330
gr, 100 x 75 cm,
Edition 3/10 + 2EA

VIDEO AND FILM WORK



About the Salesman (2018)

"About the Salesman" (2018) is a documentary co-directed by Monzavi, which tracks the creative process of Iranian filmmaker and two-time Oscar winner, Asghar Farhadi in making the "The Salesman" (2016), written and directed by Farhadi, which won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film (2017) and Best Screenplay at the Cannes Film Festival (2016), and includes a special interview with French novelist, screenwriter and actor, Jean-Claude Carrière.

OXYS in black and white (2013)

In 2012, in the darkest hours of her solitary imprisonment following her arrest, Monzavi imagined herself pregnant, as a desperate measure to combat loneliness. This work of video-art is a powerful testimony to the experience of an imaginary pregnancy.



Oxys in Black and white (2013), length 7':27"

Grape Garden Alley (2009-2012)

Based on the photo series of the same title, this feature-length documentary film directed by Monzavi captures scenes from a shelter for female drug addicts in Tehran.



MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Monzavi's work has been featured in the following cultural institutions:

- Upcoming exhibition: *Women Defining Women in Contemporary Art of the Middle East*, opening at Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in Apr. 2023, and traveling to the Phoenix Art Museum (Nov. 2023 – Mar. 2024)
- *In the Fields of Empty Days: Intersection of Past and Present in Iranian Art*, LACMA, (2018)
- *OXYS in Black and White*, Screening international video-art of the 21st century, MAXXI Museum, Rome (2018) and MACRO, Rome's Museum of Contemporary Art (2018)
- *Iranian Artists*, Zurab Tsereteli Museum of Modern Art, Tbilisi, Georgia (2018)
- *Unedited History, Iran 1960-2014*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France (2014)
- *Grape Garden, Nights of Photography*, Giorgi Leonidze Museum, Tbilisi, Georgia (2012)

SOLO GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2022 | <i>A Self Torn Apart</i> , Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris. |
| 2021 | <i>Bodies of Nature</i> , Galerie Felix Frachon, Brussels, |
| 2019 | <i>Red Soil, Cold soil</i> , Silk Road Gallery, Tehran. |
| 2017 | <i>Past continuous</i> , Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran. |
| 2016 | <i>All about me</i> , Nicknamed Crown Giver, The Public House of Art, Amsterdam.
<i>Past continuous</i> , Hinterland Gallery, Vienna. |
| 2015 | <i>All about me</i> , Nicknamed Crown Giver, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran.
<i>Review of Tahmineh Monzavi's Artworks</i> , Robert Klein Gallery, Boston. |
| 2014 | <i>Brides of Mokhber-al-Dowleh</i> , Silk Road Gallery, Tehran. |

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022** *Venti, Aurea, Anima, Sprit of Fluidity*, Foundry Downtown gallery,
Dubai (21 Nov. 2022)
Group show at the Felix Frachon gallery, Brussels (Dec.-Jan. 2022)
- 2020** *Dans la tête c'est Mexico*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris.
- 2018** *In the Fields of Empty Days : The Intersection of Past and Present in Iranian Art*,
LACMA, Los Angeles.
OXYS in black and white, Screening international video-art of the 21st century,
MACRO, Rome's Museum of Contemporary Art.
International Women Photography Award exhibition, Alliance Française, Paris.
Guardi Iraniani, Bellinzona, Switzerland.
- 2017** *Collection of Sammlung Verbund*, Vienna.
- 2015** *Re-Action*, Gijon Museum, Spain.
- 2014** *Unedited History. Iran 1960-2014*, MAXXI Museum, Rome.
Unedited History. Iran 1960-2014, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.
Dance of the Seven Veils, Side by Side Gallery, Berlin.
A Requiem for a Desolation, Hinterland Gallery, Vienna.
Iranian Photography, Milles Gallery, Sydney.
Burning Down the House, 10th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea.
- 2013** *Dance of the Veil*, Side by Side Gallery, Berlin.
A view of documentary photography in Iran 1987-2013, Silk Road, Tehran.
OXYS in black and white, nomad exhibition, Milan, and Syros (Greece).
- 2012** *Grape Garden*, Nights of Photography, Giorgi Leonidze Museum, Tbilisi,
Georgia.
- 2011** *Alternative Histories*, National Portrait Gallery, London.
- 2010** *A Selection of Young, Talented Iranian Photographers*, Silk Road Gallery,
Tehran; *Tehran: Documentary Photographs from the Last 40 Years*, Arran
Gallery, Tehran.

AWARDS AND NOTABLE MENTIONS

Monzavi received the Sheed Award for excellence in social documentary photography in 2011.

Her work has received mentions in a number of prestigious publications like the New York Times, Internazionale, Paris Match, the British Journal of Photography, Le Figaro, L'Oeil de la Photographie, and Elle Magazine. She is featured in "La Photographie Iranienne" published by LOCO, in the catalog of the exhibition titled "Iran, Unedited History 1960-2014" published by the Musée d'Art Moderne (Paris), and in "Iran 38" published by Editions Textuel.

