Plenary Session 2: Visual Arts

1) Iason ATHANASIADIS
Mullahs, Martyrs and Non-Alcoholic Mochitos: Iran’s Children of the Revolution Come of Age

Abstract
A talk and accompanying slideshow exploring some of the major public, private and semi-private spaces in the Islamic Republic's urban zones; social issues and the problems afflicting Iran’s third generation of the Revolution, the first generation to have completely grown up in an Islamic Republic.

Biography
Iason Athanasiadis is a writer and photographer who lived in Iran between 2004 and 2007. He studied Arabic and Modern Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford University, Persian and Contemporary Iranian Studies at Tehran's Faculty of International Relations and was a 2008 Nieman Fellow at Harvard. Iason contributes commentary and photography to the Guardian, Christian Science Monitor, LA Times, South China Morning Post, Der Spiegel and others. He has exhibited his photography of Iran in three shows in Tehran and a further five times in Greece, Germany and the USA. He lives in Istanbul.

2) Golrokh NAFISI
Cartoons

Abstract
My generation was born in an atmosphere of hope, a few years after the revolution. But our childhood turned into a time of shouting war slogans and rationing. However, these common pains today serve as a binding thread for my generation. Of course, my generation was not always silent: we voted, tried to change many things, and expressed ourselves through art. Although the hopes of our parents didn’t come true, we created new hope for our fatherland. I grew up in Tehran. A city which I like to talk about: not only the paradoxes governing it, but also the daily life running thorough it: the weddings, the funerals, and the kitchens that never retire from producing Persian specialities. Tehran is like a country, with many cities inside itself. I try to record the images I have of Tehran and of my childhood by illustrating them. Illustration aids me as a tool for dialogue and avoiding misunderstanding. I use it to narrate the events occurring in my life, as I believe it is our duty to narrate the truth of today for the children of tomorrow.

Biography
I was born in 1981. Three years after the revolution, at the time of war in Iran, and Superman in other parts of the world. I grew up in Tehran. When I was 16, I voted for reform for the first time. I have studied Industrial Design in Art University in Tehran. My thesis was about footwear fashion and design. During my studies I wrote and illustrated two books for children. One book, “The girl who had no hair”, is about a bald girl who imagines that clouds, birds and the wind are her hair. The other book, “This is my city”, is about a dark and polluted city that can be changed by using colours. Concurrently with the ending of eight years of reform, my university studies also finished, and I started work in advertising agencies. As a member of the creative department, my work was focused on insight mining of target groups of various products. About the same time, I started a blog about citizenship, peace, elections, and what can be done for a better life in Tehran. I continue writing about these topics. Last year, I moved to the Netherlands, and I am currently studying Illustration here.
http://golrokhn.blogspot.com/

3) Reza HAERI
Film

Abstract

Biography

4) Mamali SHAFAHI
Art

Abstract

Biography

5) Mehdi VOSOUGHNIA
A glance at photography in Iran after revolution and introducing Qazvin Photographers Group

Abstract

Biography
Qazvin photographers Group
www.irangpg.com
http://www.irangpg.com/weblog

Rybon Photo Gallery
www.rybonphotos.com