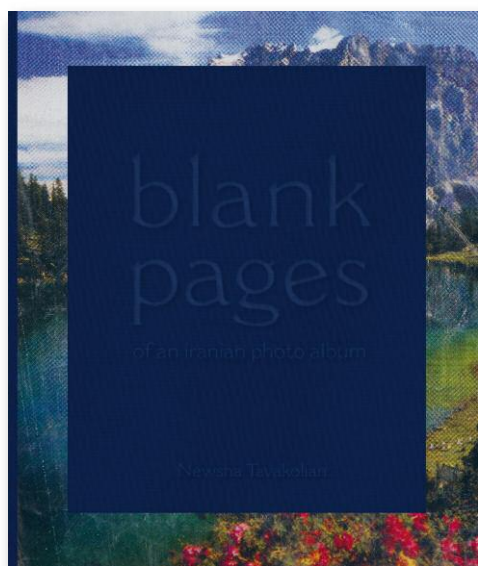




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Newsha Tavakolian

Blank Pages of an Iranian Photo Album

Texts by Newsha Tavakolian, Anahita Ghabaian

Designed by Kehrер Design

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24 x 30 cm

160 pages

90 color ill.

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Winner of the 5th Carmignac Photojournalism Award

In-depth portrait of the young middle class generation of Iran far from stereotypical images

Renowned Iranian photographer Newsha Tavakolian mixes artistic creation and journalism, starting from the traditional Iranian family photo album to deftly chronicle middle class life by following Iranians from her generation with her camera. She does not shy away from the complexity, inaccessibility, and myriad contradictions that shape her homeland. She manages to capture the full picture of contemporary Iran.

"The family photo album is the showcase for my generation. The yellowed albums and the pictures of smiling children dressed up in their best clothes are testament to our hopes and dreams, but they end in blank pages, and the moment when our parents stopped taking our pictures [...]"

For me, Iran is the country where I was born. I went to school here, started my career, and never left. As a photographer I have always struggled with how to perceive my society, with all its complexities and misunderstandings. For this project, I have decided to continue the photo albums of my generation. To add the pictures that were never taken of the way that life is for them now, grown-up. I followed nine people who in a sense define this generation. They are interchangeable, thus representing many. This photo album is theirs; it is my vision of life in Iran now, unromantic and confined. Those who feature on the pages are interchangeable, placed randomly in the natural installation of what is and can be their daily lives.

I began by collecting some childhood snapshots from their own family albums. After that I took a series of pictures that show their lives today, like reportage. They are not necessarily present in these images, but the pictures illustrate the way they live in the four corners of the megalopolis that is Tehran.

I have brought them to a mountain overlooking Tehran, Iran's capital [...] In this messiness I have asked them to find their own space, even though it may not be much bigger than their own two feet. Contrary to all the other images, these nine portraits are staged.

Now, what matters to me is that this work communicates the feelings some have here in Iran. These images will not change anything, nor will they help anybody. What I hope is that they visualize a generation marginalized by those speaking in their name."

- Newsha Tavakolian

Newsha Tavakolian (b.1981 in Tehran) began working professionally in the Iranian press at the age of 16. She has since covered regional conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Yemen. Her work is published in international magazines and newspapers such as Time Magazine, Newsweek, Stern, Le Figaro, The New York Times, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, NRC Handelsblad and The New York Times Magazine. Her work has been exhibited internationally at such museums as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Boston's Museum of Fine Art, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Museum in London. 2014 Tavakolian was selected as the fifth laureate of the Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award; 2015 she received the Principal Award of the Dutch Prince Claus Fund for her pioneering work in culture and development.

Exhibitions

Chapelle de l'École supérieure des beaux-arts de Paris

May 13 – June 7, 2015

The Great Game, 56. Venice Biennale, May 9 – Nov 22, 2015

East Wing Gallery, Dubai, July 2 – September 10, 2015

Saatchi Gallery, London

November 18 – December 13, 2015

Prince Claus Fund Gallery, Amsterdam

November 27, 2015 – March 4, 2016

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Press images



1. Mahud, climbing the wall of the abandoned empty swimming pool, which is the only quiet place he can find to practice singing.
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2. A portrait of Somayyeh, a 32-year old divorced teacher.
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



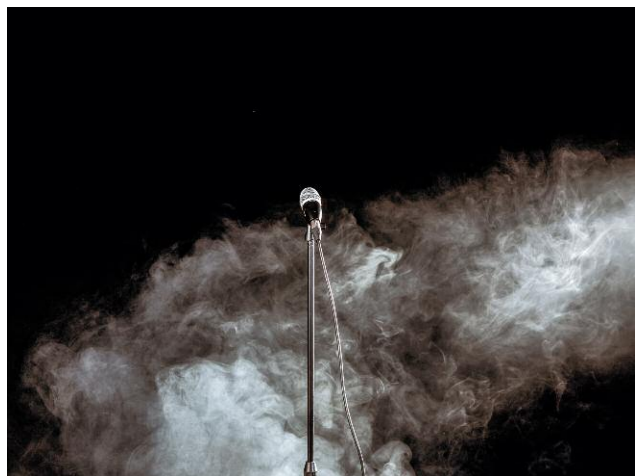
3. Ali holding his daughter, Hadis, who is celebrating her eighth birthday with family.
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



4. Girls smoking in a hallway of the university during a break.
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



5. A young woman tries to sneak a peek of a drawing of a woman covered by white paper in Qaem Mall, under Iran's Islamic laws showing women's bodies in public is forbidden.
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



6. A view of a microphone and an empty stage in Tehran.
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



7. A worker drilling into the wall to fix a vent on the campus of Tehran University of Art.
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



8. A taxi driver in his car on a rainy day. Behind him a poster of an upcoming performance of Samuel Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot".
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



9. Najieh and another woman doing volunteer work with underprivileged children at a school.
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



10. A couple sitting by the sea.
© Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation



Portrait of Newsha Tavakolian for the Carmignac Foundation

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