

CONFERENCE AND PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8th of July 2011



Image: Listen 2010. Courtesy of the Artist and La Caja Blanca Gallery

Newsha Tavakolian (Tehran, 1981), is one of the most outstanding female photographers emerging onto the international circuit from Iran.

Aged sixteen, Tavakolian began working as a professional photographer for feminist magazines in Iran, all of which have since been shut down by government authorities. Soon after, she began working as a regular collaborator for some of the most prominent international publications including Time Magazine, Newsweek, Stern, Le Figaro, The New York Times Magazine, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, NRC Handelsblad and National Geographic.

“Tavakolian’s portraits of female archetypes reveal the silent tensions faced by a new generation of indomitable women born in a country which considers them one of the principal threats to the regime, and the status quo of Sharia law. Her background as a photojournalist feeds a thread of storytelling into each image, as if the model were the heroine of a familiar fairytale gone wrong.”

Eva Shakouri, Curator at La Caja Blanca Gallery, Spain.

On the 28th of July, Tavakolian will offer an artist talk about her work as a female artist with a particular interest in issues surrounding the role of women in the Middle East, together with a video-diary showing how young artists brave their careers in Tehran today.

Media professionals wishing to travel to Palma for the event or interview the artist: complimentary rooms in the Melia de Mar Hotel, courtesy of our sponsors: www.melia-demar.com

Special Thanks to: Nazila Noebashari, El Corte Inglés, Hotel Melià de Mar, Es Baluart and La Agencia



LA CAJA BLANCA

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PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Solo exhibition composed by a series of six photographic portraits representing female archetypes in a Modern country governed by Ayatollahs and Sharia Law. In her latest series, Tavakolian takes the viewer's gaze into a territory of invisible tensions and surreptitious conflict which dominate day to day life in Muslim countries and are yet often overlooked and ignored by the West. Tavakolian's universe sheds light on some of the tools used by feminists in Iran to challenge the Ayatollahs. The very elements, which were discarded by feminists in Europe as symbols of male oppression, become threatening tools, which the authoritarian regime attempts to censor, hide and block.

Dates: 16th June 2011 – 10th September 2011

Venue: La Caja Blanca, C/ Can Verí, 9, Palma de Mallorca 07001, Spain

CONFERENCE & VIDEO-DIARY SCREENING

Newsha Tavakolian will travel to Spain to offer the public a unique insight into her work and experience as a professional female photographer interested in gender issues in the Middle East. The talk offered by the artist includes the projection of a video-diary which explores how female artists find ways to exercise their profession in a country dominated by restrictions on free speech, and manifestations of female empowerment.

Dates: 28th July 2011

Venue: Strictly by invitation only, for more information, contact La Caja Blanca
