

Iranian artist Sadegh Tirafkan's work can well be described as a human tapestry.

By combining human faces with pieces of traditional Iranian carpet in (most of) his works, the artist brings together traditional beliefs and contemporary aesthetics. With his work, Tirafkan also commemorates the traditional art and the unknown artisans of his homeland, who are fast becoming a thing of the past. His work blurs the lines between reality and imaginary, old and new, and East and West.

One can have glimpses of Tirafkan's works at



A digital collage from the Multitude series.

IRANIAN ARTIST **SADEGH TIRAFKAN** BLENDS CARPET MOTIFS WITH MODERN-DAY FIGURES TO CREATE HIS ARTWORKS THAT HIGHLIGHT THEMES PERTAINING TO HISTORY, IDENTITY, SOCIO-POLITICAL, AND GENDER ISSUES

Gallery Etemad at Al Quoz in Dubai. Titled "Sadegh Tirafkan 04-10", this is his first solo exhibition in the UAE in which he presents a collection of photographs, digital collages and installation work.

Known as one of Iran's most distinctive and innovative artists, Tirafkan draws inspiration from the several thousands of years old history of Iran — from the Zoroastrian religion and the Safavid dynasty — to the present (including satellite

television and celebrity culture) to create his works. He subsequently adds layers of his own personal experience to create a rich tapestry of expertly crafted aesthetics and concepts.

*Different series, different themes*

For this exhibition the artist has divided his works into three series, each having a different theme. Although one could see thematic

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variations consistently weaving in and out of Tirafkan's works, yet they (series) are all woven together by the theme of history, identity, socio-political, religious, and gender issues.

# TAPESTRY OF LIFE