

## **GALERIE BRIGITTE SCHENK**

### **Group Show / You are a Part of Me**

Opening reception April 18, 2012, 7-9 pm

Exhibition runs until June 30, 2012

#### Exhibiting Artists:

H. P Adamski, C. Anderson, T. Al Ghousein, E. Blue, R. Cabot, K. Fritze,  
D. Henders, H. Al Qasimi, I. & E. Kabakov, S. Karimi, M. Manson, O. Mecky,  
S. Mehran, A. Merrild, B. Salesch, W. Schels, B. Schimmel, M. Somoroff,  
W. Thiemann, M. Zerres

The selected artists deal with questions of identity associated with a culture, - and its clichés and stereotypes, and the diverse range of works that address the complex issues - ideologically, politically, and aesthetically. All artists have had solo shows or participated in group shows in the gallery before.

#### Selection:

Tarek Al-Ghousein lives and works in the United Arab Emirates. He spent some time in an Arab prison for the series of photographs - the so called Self-portrait series - he made of himself as a Palestinian terrorist. Al Ghousein criticises the cliché of the Palestinians that, particularly after September 11, 2001, seems to be ineradicable in the Western media. In the style of Levis and Marlboro advertising campaigns, the artist creates an imaginary campaign in which the image of the terrorist with a stone and headscarf functions as a logo for the Intifada. Al-Ghousein is one of the most established artists in the U.A.E. (from Universes in Universe) He is a teacher for fine art at the only Academy of Fine Arts in the Gulf in Sharjah.

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Hoor Al Qasimis complex biography, as an artist from Sharjah who resides in London, adds to the complexity of these striking images taken while on the road. The volatile snapshots taken out of the car window and often captured in the diffuse light of dusk, illustrate a new quality of consciousness. Extreme mobility and flexibility, a state of permanent transit, the simultaneity of complex processes, linear motion ploughed asunder and undergoing transformation into a synchronous advancing of time, all have led to a sea-change in the way people picture themselves, have led to a paradigm shift from self-definition. Not "Who I am," but "Where am I", is the question that establishes a new level of identity, mutated by global evolution.

Shahram Karimi is a painter and filmmaker: In his paintings he quotes the manner of old Iranian miniature paintings combined with self-written Farsi poetry. Very often his subjects have to do with the difficult issues of fugitives that almost every Iranian is dealing with and the longing for "home". Shahram Karimi has worked on all films of Shirin Neshat for the last 15 years; together with Shirin Neshat he has won the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennial filmfestival in 2009 for the film "Women without men".