



# SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE

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## ***Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran*** **opens March 24, 2011 at** **Saint Joseph College Art Gallery**



Bahman Jalali. *Image of Imagination #2*, 2003. “C” print.

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – *Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran* opens with a public reception on Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Saint Joseph College Art Gallery, located in The Bruyette Athenaeum, 1678 Asylum Avenue on the College’s West Hartford campus.

*Persian Visions* ([www.sjc.edu/persianvisions](http://www.sjc.edu/persianvisions)) is an exhibition of 58 works of photography and video installation by 20 of Iran’s most celebrated photographers. It gathers personal perspectives of contemporary Iran filtered through individual sensibilities while simultaneously addressing public concerns. ***Persian Visions* will be on view through May 22, 2011 at the Saint Joseph College Art Gallery, this exhibition’s only venue in Connecticut.**

Iran has long distinguished itself with the spectacular quality and international presence of its visual art and film. With the backdrop of increasing attention given to the art and culture of Iran and the current political crisis in that part of the world, an exhibition with this focus is most timely. In expressing their many different visions of their world, these artists offer a look at both private and public realms. Their perspectives contradict the way many foreign photographers typically capture Iran on film as purely exotic.

Shokoufeh Alidousti offers self-portraits and family photographs exploring both cultural and female identity. Esmail Abbasi draws on Persian literature for his subject matter with

contemporary notes on the present circumstances in Iran. Shahriar Tavakoli focuses on his family history through a series of portraits capturing the subtleties and mood of the Iranian family. In Koroush Adim's *Revelation* series, the images in the exhibition that feature the veil acknowledge this sign of culture, and yet the "revelation" is anything but simple. Shahrokh Ja'fari's use of unusual spatial rendering in depicting the veiled figure demands that the viewer look harder and think harder about what can be revealed through the visual.

The images presented in *Persian Visions* cannot entirely surmount the physical and cultural distance between Iran and the United States; nevertheless, the exhibition builds a visual bridge that allows for differences, even as it leads viewers to new awareness of other ways of being and seeing.

*Persian Visions* was developed by Hamid Severi for the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Iran and Gary Hallman of the Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C. This exhibition is supported in part by grants from the ILEX Foundation; the University of Minnesota McKnight Arts and Humanities Endowment; and the Department of Art, the Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota. The exhibition at Saint Joseph College is made possible in part by the Karen L. Chase '97 Fund.

**International Arts & Artists** in Washington, DC, is a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally, through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions and the public. Visit [www.artsandartists.org](http://www.artsandartists.org)



The Saint Joseph College Art Gallery is located on the College's West Hartford campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue in The Bruyette Athenaeum, part of The Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities. The Art Gallery presents regular exhibitions drawn from its permanent collections as well as loan exhibitions of historic art or of contemporary work by artists of national and international prominence.

**The Art Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.; closed Monday. Admission is free of charge.** For more information or if you have any questions, contact the Art Gallery at 860.231.5399 or [artgallery@sjc.edu](mailto:artgallery@sjc.edu).

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*Saint Joseph College, founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide higher education opportunities for women, is a comprehensive institution serving women from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. Responsive to the evolving educational needs of the community, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies also offers both women and men graduate degree programs in many fields, a Weekend Program for Adult Learners, professional certificate programs relevant to today's workforce, and other continuing education opportunities. In the fall of 2011, the Saint Joseph College School of Pharmacy, the first doctoral program in the College's 78-year history, will open at Hartford 21 on Trumbull Street in downtown Hartford. View our Web site at [www.sjc.edu](http://www.sjc.edu).*

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