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Europe  
Middle East  
Africa  
World  
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Business  
Travel & Arts  
Photo Essays  
TIME Trails  
Magazine  
Archive  
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Special Features  
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Forecast 2001  
E-Europe

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## shirin neshat

Shirin Neshat doesn't quite know where to call home. The 43-year-old artist was born and raised in Iran but moved to the U.S. after high school to study art. When the Islamic Revolution overtook her homeland in 1979, Neshat was exiled and couldn't return until 11 years later--and the country she went home to bore little resemblance to the one she left.

Neshat dealt with her sense of displacement by trying to untangle the ideology of Islam through art. The result was *Women of Allah* (1993-97), a photographic series of militant Muslim women that subverts the stereotype and examines the Islamic idea of martyrdom. In 1996, Neshat began working with film, eager to create more poetic, open-ended works. She produced a trilogy of split-screen video installations--*Turbulent* (1998), *Rapture* (1999) and *Fervor* (2000)--all sumptuously filmed meditations on the male/female dynamic in Islamic societies. Her current exhibition--at London's Serpentine Gallery until Sept. 3 then at Hamburger Kunsthalle in January--presents *Women of Allah* and all three video installations together for the first time. Here is a selection of images from the exhibition.



### Speechless

1996, B/W RC print and ink, photo: Larry Barns

Courtesy Barbara Gladstone

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[Women of Allah](#) | [Rapture](#) | [Fervor](#)

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