

## Shadi Ghadirian

Lives and works in Tehran, Iran, Shadi Ghadirian has marked a turning point in Iranian portraiture. With clear inclinations towards marked periods in time, Ghadirian has enveloped herself as one of the most renowned Iranian photographers to date, who still live in their ingrown land. How her concept grew out of self-orientalism, Ghadirian contributes to her womanhood, and social inequities by reiterating the same consumed knowledge of women's appearances to her portraits. She studied at Azad University, and stumbled upon the realities women face in both their domestic and plural settings, finding herself a marquee of portrayal on the difficulties women face in Iran today.

Addressing two of her most recognized works to date, Ghadirian uses the everyday to reflect on the promptness of her 'now'. Seen in *Like Every Day* series, the women appear faceless, in vibrantly colored chadors, yet unidentifiable, and consumed by the object placed in front of their own facades. A teapot, a broom, an ironware, all entail the daily shackles of house-bound chores. Furthermore, Ghadirian continues to evoke the image of a woman, in her daily observances outside of the household environment, listening to a tape recorder while standing in a well calculated pose, holding a plant while seated in an unseen MonaLisa-like gaze, she continues to affirm the seduction of the unknown. Is she happy, sad, compelled, free-willed or all of the above?



**Qajar Series** 2001  
Colored photographic print, 90 x 60 cm  
Edition of 10. Image courtesy of the artist and Rose Issa Projects