

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: Majid Koorang Beheshti, 'Telling Spaces'  
Location: Ayyam Art Center, Alserkal Avenue (Dubai)  
Opening: 10 September at 7 PM  
Dates: September 10 to October 11



Ayyam Gallery is pleased to introduce two photographic series by Majid Koorang Beheshti from September 10 until October 11 at the Ayyam Art Center, Dubai. His first solo exhibition outside Iran, entitled 'Telling Spaces', will provide a unique opportunity to view the span of imagination, politically reactionary work, and beauty of line created by today's artists of Iran.

In Beheshti's 2007 series, 'The Cubic Paths', the stark crispness of monochrome constructions, angular or often curved and offset with bold ebony-shadowed areas and clean lines in repeated sequences, create foreign landscapes reminiscent of Bauhaus and, at times, Surrealist sensibilities. The structures are devoid of their original purpose, allowing the form and line of each segment to stand out and create a new meaning for the viewer.

His 2011 series, 'The City's Notebook', takes a more engaged approach to photography with staged scenes, yet Beheshti's architectural fascination is carried throughout. Angular rooftops, perforated tunnels and geometric skeletons of edifices frame the interior scene of each photograph. This harsh environment serves to emphasize the despair, chaos, destruction and violence the city has witnessed. With direct references to an armed military presence, the bygone era of the Persian Empire, and various murders of the city's youth, the images are one of grieving for a lost city, perhaps even a disappearing heritage, and the netting framework and enduring corridors imprisons these citizens in this reality. However, the series culminates on a hopeful note as a young chador-clad woman soars in the air, arms outstretched with a smile on her face, breaking high above the confining cages, her hands releasing a deck of playing cards. True to the Iranian spirit, these people are not entirely broken or hopeless, and though caged, free spirits will continue to rise and the cards will fall where they may.

Born in 1967 in Isfahan, Iran, Majid Koorang Beheshti received his Bachelor of Arts in Painting from Tehran's Azad University. He has exhibited individually throughout Iran since 1998 and in collective exhibitions in Iran, the United States, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and Germany since 2004, most notably with the exhibition 'Persian Visions, Contemporary Photography from Iran' which toured the United States. In 1999, he was chosen the Selected Painter in the 'Dialogue Among Civilizations International Contest', won Best Photo Exhibition of the Year in 2000, and his series 'Cubic Pathways' was selected as the Best Collection in Creative Photography of the 10th Biennale of Iranian Photography in 2006.

Since opening in 2006, Ayyam Gallery has become one of the most prominent galleries in the Middle East with four exhibition spaces throughout the region, notably in Damascus, Beirut, Dubai, and two upcoming spaces in London and Jeddah. Ayyam Gallery proudly represents some of today's most recognized emerging and established Arab and Iranian artists. For interviews with the artist, or for more information, please contact us at +971 4 3236242 or email [aac@ayyamgallery.com](mailto:aac@ayyamgallery.com)