



Media Information

EVERYDAY SCENES

The British-Iranian photographer and filmmaker Mitra Tabrizian creates disturbing pictorial worlds out of the common and the ordinary. With her inimitable gaze she questions the individual's complex social roles, reveals things too often overlooked, and wrestles with the usual notions of life today. Her book *Off Screen* includes all of the works she has created since 2012.

Bielefeld/Berlin, 28 October 2019 – Mitra Tabrizian (*1956) is a precise observer. One always senses the urgency with which the prize-winning, British-Iranian photographer and filmmaker looks at everyday life. Things rumble disturbingly beneath the supposedly peaceful surface of Tabrizian's fabricated visual worlds. Through her unique pictorial language, she questions the complex social roles of the individual, while also looking for the individual's place in society. In the process she reveals things that have been overlooked, and wrestles with common ideas of globalized life today, in which many people cannot participate.

Taking a long time to prepare and do research, she unfolds a quiet narrative, in which, for example, the undefined hours between late night and early morning subtly show that this is a temporary world that we are looking at. Another instance is a film titled *You Don't Know What Nights Are Like?* Here, she deals with the effects of working at night: people shy away from life, seeking comfort, or else worry that economic constraints will shut them off from their usual social lives.

Tabrizian also shows us ruined, deserted industrial landscapes, and with them, the long-gone hopes for progress associated with the industrial revolution and modernism. Or else she turns to the unfamiliar sides of everyday life in British society. She accompanies immigrants from Bahrain, and Iranian exiles who look as if they have been stranded, rather than settled. One makeshift day after the next. The photographs of these protagonists—some identified, others not—expose oppressive destinies. They exist on the edges of society, but despite the melancholy of this, they also reveal pride and a will to live.

Tabrizian's moving book of photos, *off screen*, contains all of the work she has done since 2012, plus essays by Parveen Adams, David Bate, and Olivier Richon, as well as poetry by the renowned author and director Ben Okri.



Mitra Tabrizian | off screen

ISBN 978-3-7356-0613-6

29 × 25 cm

112 Pages

64 colored illustrations

Languages: English

Texts

Parveen Adams, David Bate, Olivier Richon

Design

Fraser Muggeridge Studio, London

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