

# I KEPT THE NIGHT VIGIL

Curated by Behrang Samadzadegan



LEILA HELLER GALLERY.



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# ... I Kept the Night Vigil ...

Exploring Women's Voices Across and Beyond the Middle East

Curated by Behrang Samadzadegan

In the heart of Leila Heller Gallery, "I Kept the Night Vigil" stands as a beacon of artistic resilience and innovation, celebrating the profound contributions of female artists from the Middle East and those working there. Inspired by the evocative poetry of al-Khansa\*, who eloquently conveyed the nuances of grief, strength, and transformation, the exhibition resonates with the timeless spirit of women's voices in a region marked by rich cultural heritage and contemporary challenges.

Historically, women in the Middle East have been pivotal in cultivating and transmitting knowledge, art, and culture. Prevailing stereotypes often overshadow these historical narratives, yet they form the backbone of an enduring tradition of female intellectualism and creativity.

Philosophically, the exhibition draws from the concept of "night vigil" as a metaphor for both introspection and vigilance. It embodies the dual role women have often played: as preservers of culture and as agents of change. The night vigil signifies a period of quiet resistance, reflection, and the formulation of new ideas under cover of darkness—times when the world is still, and the mind can wander freely.

The title, "I Kept the Night Vigil," is derived from the works of al-Khansa,

a poet celebrated for her profound expressions of sorrow and resilience. Al-Khansa's poetry, deeply rooted in personal and collective experience, transcends time, offering a poignant lens through which the voices of contemporary female artists can be understood.

The featured artists bring forth a tapestry of unique and enlightening perspectives, utilizing various mediums to explore themes such as women's issues, war, memory, and the natural world. Each piece is a testament to women's individual and collective experiences in the Middle East, merging personal narratives with broader socio-political commentary.

"I Kept the Night Vigil" is a tribute to the enduring spirit and innovative prowess of women artists from the Middle East. It is a celebration of their resilience, a testament to their creativity, and a recognition of their crucial role in shaping the cultural and intellectual landscape. By drawing from historical, philosophical, and sociological insights, this exhibition offers a rich, multi-faceted exploration of contemporary Middle Eastern art through the eyes of its women creators. It is an invitation to reflect, engage, and honor the night vigils kept by these remarkable artists, whose works illuminate the path towards a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of the world.

**Artists:**



Shirin Neshat



Farideh Lashai



Parinaz Eleish



Pariyoush Ganji



Azita Panahpour



Katya Traboulsi



Naeemeh Kazemi



Maxi Cohen



Ana D Castro



Melis Buyruk



Stephany Sanossian



Shiva Ahmadi



Maryam Lamei



Soraya Sharghi



Azza Al Qubaisi



Shan Castelino



Areen Hassan



Niki Zarrabi



Shideh Fatemi



Zeinab Al  
Hashemi



Salwa Zeidan



Shirin Neshat  
"Tooba"  
2022  
Photograph  
50.2 x 61.5 cm  
Artist's Proof





Shirin Neshat  
"Mystified"  
1997  
Photograph  
132.5 x 104.5 cm  
Edition 3/3



Shirin Neshat  
1998  
"Turbulent" Series  
Photograph  
160 x 110 cm  
Edition 2/5



Farideh Lashai  
Self Portrait  
1986  
Oil, coloured pencil and  
graphite on paper  
74 x 59 cm



Farideh Lashai  
Self Portrait  
1989  
Oil and coloured pencil on  
paper  
51 x 44 cm





Farideh Lashai  
Untitled  
1967  
Oil on paper  
37 x 27 cm







Farideh Lashai  
Untitled  
1967  
Oil on paper  
37 x 27 cm



Farideh Lashai  
Untitled  
1967  
Oil on paper  
37 x 27 cm





Farideh Lashai  
1967  
Untitled  
Oil on paper  
33 x 45 cm  
66 x 54 cm



Pariyoush Ganji  
Untitled  
2019  
Oil on Canvas  
60 x 90 cm



Pariyoush Ganji  
Untitled  
2019  
Oil on Canvas  
60 x 90 cm

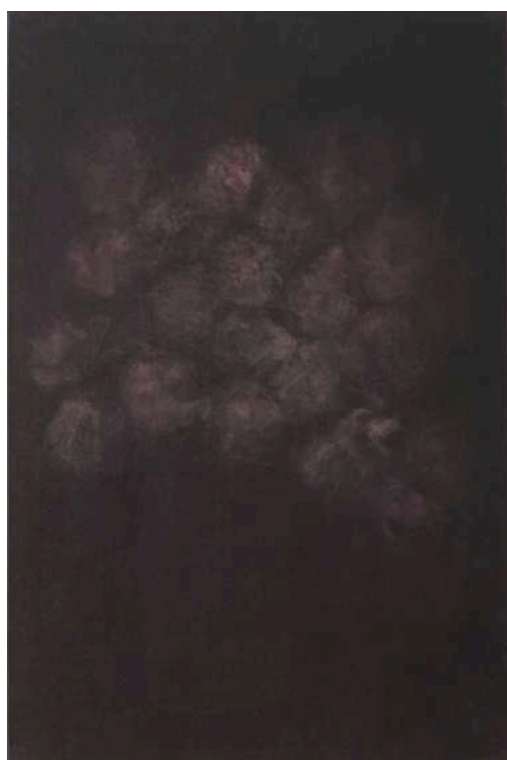








Pariyoush Ganji  
Untitled  
2019  
Oil on Canvas  
60 x 90 cm



Pariyoush Ganji  
Untitled  
2019  
Oil on Canvas  
60 x 90 cm









Parinaz Eleish  
You can't hit a moving target  
2024  
Mixed Media and Collage on Canvas  
244 x 183 cm



Parinaz Eleish  
The Blue Swimming Pool  
2020  
Mixed Media and Collage on  
Canvas  
183.5 x 153.67 cm





مهرماه

نام کاندید  
راشک

تواند





Katya Traboulsi  
Spain  
Hand carved leather on wood  
Brass base and top  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Tunisia  
2016  
Hand painted porcelain  
Brass base and top  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
China  
2016  
Hand painted porcelain  
Brass base and top  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Japan  
Hand painted porcelain  
Brass base and top  
Edition 4/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Turkey  
2016  
Hand painted porcelain  
Brass Base and top  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Portugal  
Hand painted porcelain  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm





Katya Traboulsi  
Afghanistan  
2016  
Hand carved and painted resin  
Brass base and top  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Brazil  
Hand carved wood painted  
Brass top and base  
73 x 21 x 21

Katya Traboulsi  
Armenia  
2016  
Hand painted resin  
Brass base and top  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
France  
2016  
Brass with patina black  
Brass base and top  
Edition 3/6  
70 x 21 x 18 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Canada  
2016  
Hand carved and painted wood  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
76 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Australia  
2016  
Hand painted resin  
Brass top and base  
73 x 21 x 21 cm





Katya Traboulsi  
Ukraine  
2016  
Old hand embroidery on resine  
Brass base and top  
Edition 3/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Netherlands  
Hand painted porcelain  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Philippines  
2016  
Mother of pearl shell on wood,  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Thailand  
2016  
Hand carved resin and gold leaf  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Indonesia  
2016  
Hand painted wood, Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Morocco  
2016  
Brass base and top  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Ethiopia  
Hand painted wood  
Brass top and base  
73 x 21 x 21 cm  
edition 1/6

Katya Traboulsi  
Germany  
2016  
Hand painted resin  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 30 x 30 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Russia  
2016  
Hand painted wood  
Brass base and top  
Edition 3/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Oman  
2016  
Handmade silver and brass  
Brass base and top  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Palestine  
2016  
Brass  
AP  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Uzbekistan  
2016  
Fabric and jewelries on resin  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm











Katya Traboulsi  
Nigeria  
2016  
Hand beaded on wood  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 32 x 27 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Mexico  
2016  
Hand carved wood  
Brass base and top  
Edition 1/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Algeria  
2016  
Hand painted resin  
Brass base and top  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
U.K.  
Collage on resin  
Brass top and base  
75 x 21 x 2 cm  
AP



Katya Traboulsi  
Peru  
2016  
Hand carved wood  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Italy  
2016  
Hand painted porcelain  
Brass top and base  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
Qatar  
2016  
Hand painted resin and brass sticks  
Brass base and top  
Edition 2/6  
73 x 21 x 21 cm

Katya Traboulsi  
Lebanon  
2016  
Hand carved cedar wood  
Brass base and top  
AP  
73 x 21 x 21 cm



Katya Traboulsi  
 Rej3a ya mama  
 2022  
 (Mama, I'll be back)  
 Hand painted iron  
 140 x 160 cm





Melis Buyruk  
The Blooming Nest  
2024  
Stainless Steel, Porcelain &  
22k gold detail  
160 x 120 cm x 10 cm









Melis Buyruk  
Habitat Series  
2019  
Porcelain & 18k Gold  
91 x 76 x 7 cm







Melis Buyruk  
Habitat  
2023  
Porcelain  
80 cm High



Maxi Cohen  
Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi  
2022  
Chromaluxe Print  
110 x 147 cm



Maxi Cohen  
Jubail Mangrove Park, Abu Dhabi  
2023  
Acrylic on inkjet print,  
146 x 110 cm

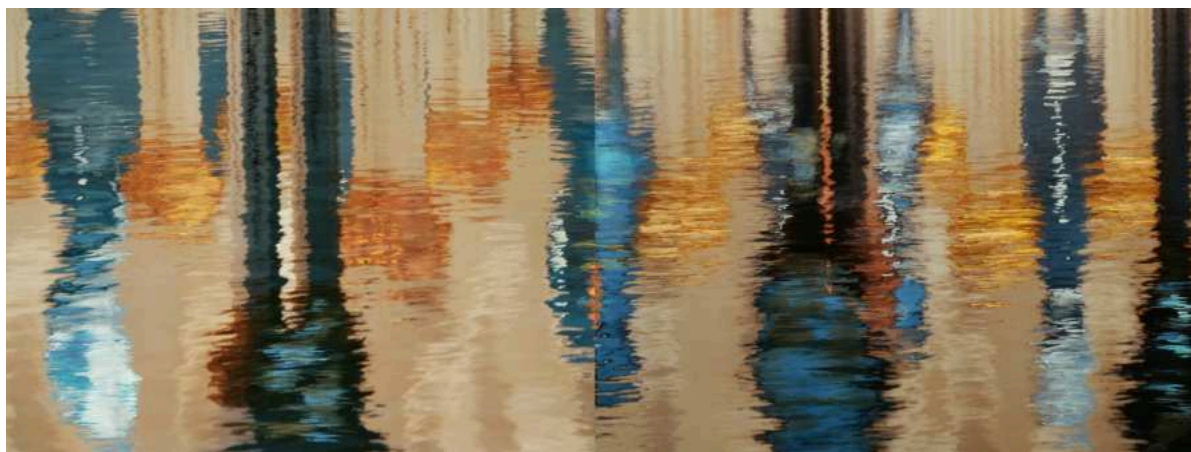








Maxi Cohen  
The Sustainable City, Dubai  
2023  
Chromaluxe Print  
110 x 147 cm



Maxi Cohen  
The Sustainable City, Dubai  
2023  
Chromaluxe Print  
110 x 147 cm



Maryam Lamei  
Inevitably Parallel  
2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
250 x 180 cm



Maryam Lamei  
You and Me seem to have been one  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 200 cm







Azita Panahpour  
Saat  
2023  
Steel  
28 x 15 x 11 inches







Azita Panahpour  
Te  
2023  
Steel  
14 x 9 x 12 inches





Azita Panahpour  
Nun  
2023  
Steel  
28 x 15 x 11 inches



Ana D'Castro  
Nostalgia series: "Uma sesta no jardim"  
"A nap over the garden"  
2021  
Montage  
Oil on canvas  
200 X 400 cm





Soraya Sharghi  
The Thinker  
2023-24  
Acrylic on Canvas  
226.6 x 183 cm









Naeemeh Kazemi  
Untitled  
Oil on Canvas  
152 x 180 cm









Naeemeh Kazemi  
Untitled  
2023  
Oil on Canvas  
170 x 250 cm









Niki Zarrabi  
Amorous Liaison  
2023  
Oil on Canvas  
60h x 72w in  
152.40h x 182.88w cm





Niki Zarrabi  
Nostalgic Redolence  
2023  
Oil on Canvas  
60h x 72w in  
152.40h x 182.88w cm







Azza Al Qubaisi  
Between the dunes (Dunes with dates)  
2022  
Mild Steel with dates leaves  
220 x 200 x 206 cm





Shiva Ahmadi  
Untitled 10 (from Throne)  
2012  
Mixed Media On Aqua board  
38.10h x 27.94w cm



Shiva Ahmadi  
Green  
2016  
Mixed media on acquaboard  
88.90h x 114.30w cm











Salwa Zeidan  
Spiral Series  
2021  
Black Marble  
70 x 49 x 55 cm

Salwa Zeidan  
Spiral Series  
2021  
Black Marble  
34 x 36 x 39 cm



Salwa Zeidan  
Endless Spiral  
2021  
Black Marble  
35 x 33 x 32 cm

Salwa Zeidan  
Love Connection  
2021  
Black Marble  
37 x 20 x 29 cm  
57 x 37 x 35 cm







Shan Castelino  
Galactic Firework  
2024  
Acrylic on Canvas  
200 cm x 200 cm









Shan Castelino  
Intergalactic Delight  
2024  
Diptych  
Oil on Canvas  
150 cm x 200 cm (Overall)  
150 cm x 100 cm each









Shideh Fatemi  
Women, Life 1  
2024  
71 x 76 cm  
Hair, Yarn, Adhesive cloth





Shideh Fatemi  
Women, Life 3  
2024  
86 x 110 cm  
Hair, Yarn, Adhesive cloth



Shideh Fatemi  
Women, Life 2  
2024  
90 x 126 cm  
Hair, Yarn, Adhesive cloth









Stephany Sanossian  
HEART 1 (Emotional Revolution)  
2024  
42 x 48 cm  
Mixed Media

Stephany Sanossian  
HEART 4 (Emotional Revolution)  
2024  
42 x 48 cm  
Mixed Media

Stephany Sanossian  
HEART 2 (Emotional Revolution)  
2024  
42 x 48 cm  
Mixed Media

Stephany Sanossian  
HEART 5 (Emotional Revolution)  
2024  
42 x 48 cm  
Mixed Media

Stephany Sanossian  
HEART 3 (Emotional Revolution)  
2024  
42 x 48 cm  
Mixed Media

Stephany Sanossian  
HEART 6 (Emotional Revolution)  
2024  
42 x 48 cm  
Mixed Media







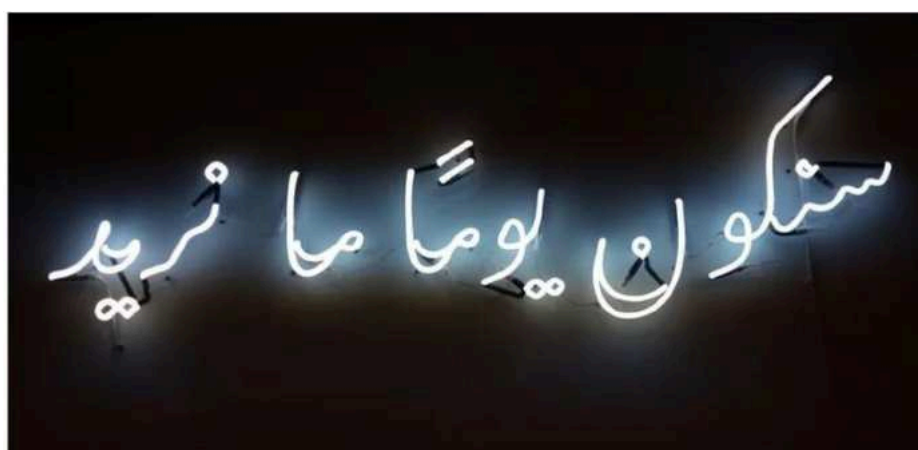
Areen Hassan  
Revelation  
2024

Silkscreen printing and unraveling on textile  
450 x 150cm





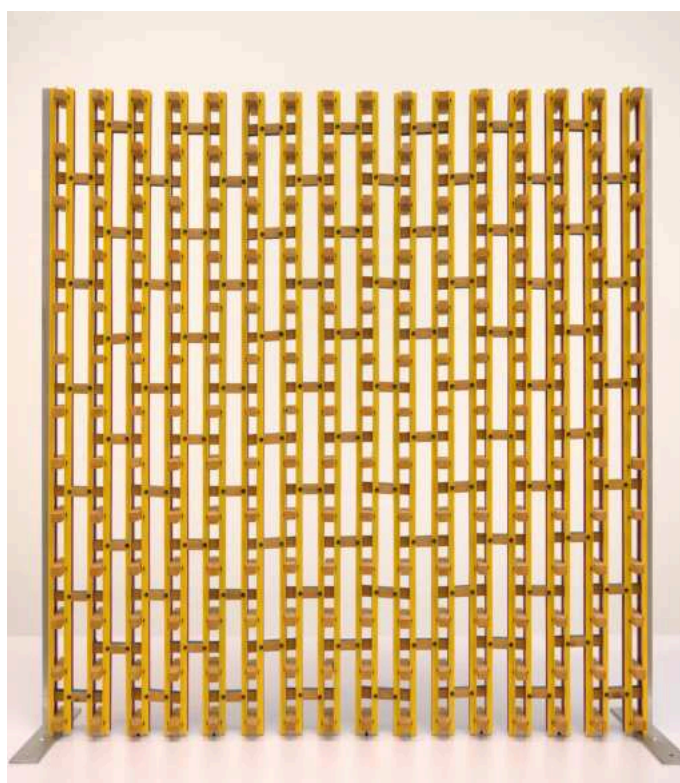




Zeinab Al Hashemi  
One Day We Shall Be What We Want  
2019  
Neon  
160 x 80 cm

سکون





Zeinab Al Hashemi

Day 6

2022

Wood, Angle Bar, Aluminium Tube, Screws

120 x 120 cm





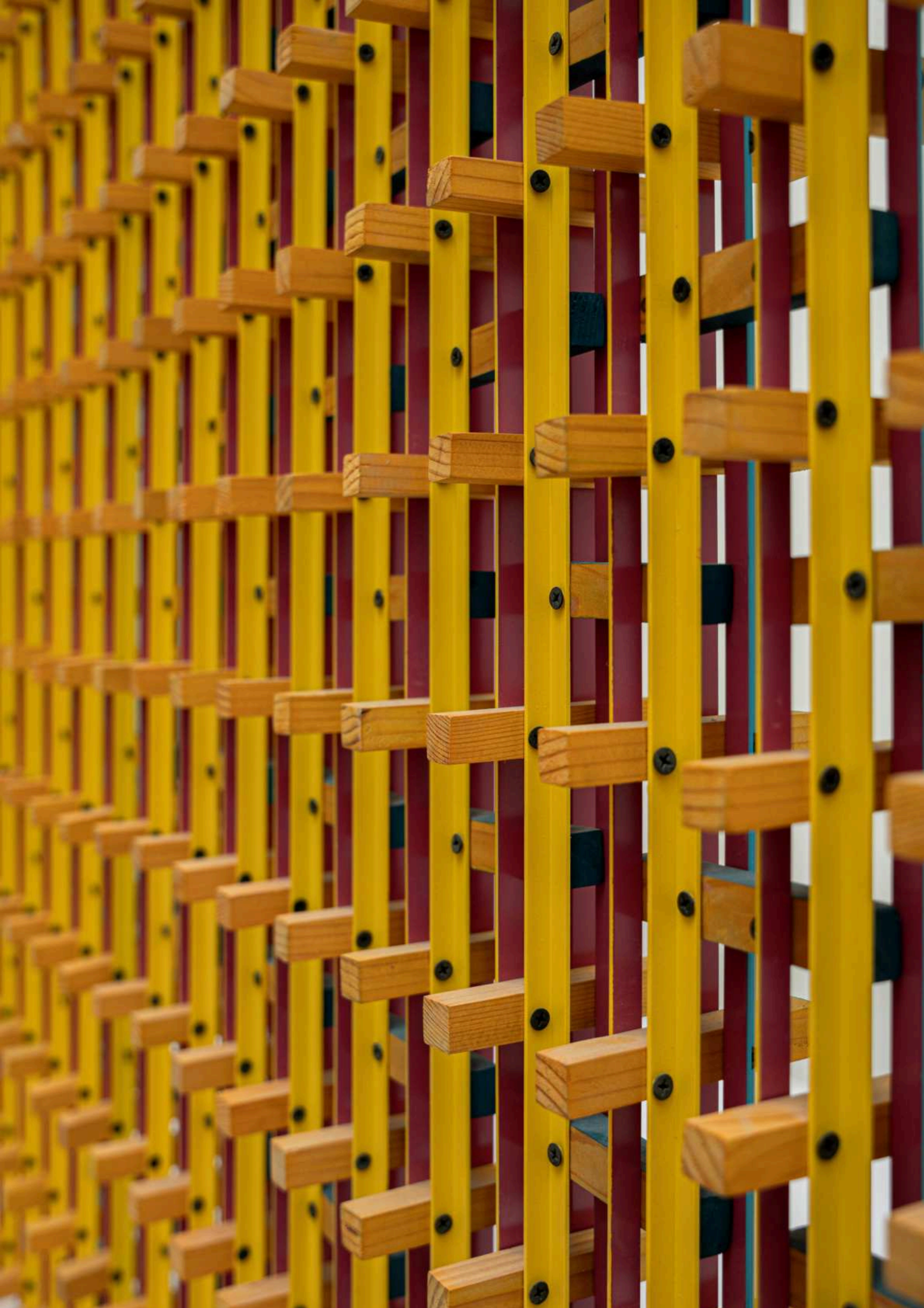
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Back cover image: Shirin Neshat "Mystified", 1997,  
Photograph, 132.5 x 104.5 cm

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