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For Immediate Release

SHIRANA SHAHBAZI
MEANWHILE
SEP 13 – OCT 27 2007

Opening reception Wednesday, September 12, 6-8 PM

Born in Tehran in 1974 and educated in Germany and Switzerland, Shirana Shahbazi currently lives and works in Zurich. With roots in the conceptualist photography that flourished in Europe in the 1990s, Shahbazi's practice mines the gap between the epic and the everyday, testing the capacity of archetypal genres - still life, portrait, landscape, snapshot - as carriers of pictorial information. With imagery taken from around the world, Shahbazi's photographs trade in the variability of the ordinary, whether through representation of the commonplace or via abstraction. Overturning conventional photographic strategies - and in the process thwarting preconceptions of Iranian art and society - Shahbazi poses questions of translation that defy easy answers.

Shirana Shahbazi's solo show at the Swiss Institute will be the largest exhibition of her work to date in the United States. On view at the Swiss Institute, Shahbazi presents a selection of sumptuous color photographs from her growing catalogue of projects, and a painting transcribed from one of her photographs by a team of Iranian artists. Cross-mixing geographic origins and pictorial formats from the monochrome to the propaganda poster, Shahbazi's installation offers an image bank of the placeless and an anti-iconography of everyday life.

The Swiss Institute is pleased to present this exhibition in cooperation with Salon 94, New York. The exhibition is generously supported by the LUMA Foundation and with kind support of Fogel.

For more information please contact Gianni Jetzer at jet@swissinstitute.net