

## Sara Rahbar

Iranian artist prepares for Dubai show



Iranian artist Sara Rahbar will be appearing in Dubai in March to unveil her solo show: Whatever we had to Lose we Lost, and in a Moonless Sky we Marched.

The show will be a series of her recent work including her striking photography.

Rahbar, 33, was born in Tehran but both the revolution in Iran and the start of the Iran Iraq war forced her to leave with her family.

Studying fine art in London and design in New York Rahbar's visual art has allowed her to convey the relationship between the US, Iran and herself.

"For me the title says it all. I am showing nine pieces in total; four photographs and five textiles works.

"Within the textile works there is a mix of media that is used.

"And I am showing a new photograph series: I lay in the darkness of an anonymous grave, stripped of you, I remain, which a series of five taken in 2009."

Rahbar lives and works in both New York and Tehran and says the protests in Iran last summer had affected her.

"They have influenced everyone and still are," she adds. "I live and work between two estranged countries and the work is created wherever I am, which is somewhere in between.

I began as a painter, and I still feel as if I am painting; only now it's with a needle, textiles, flags or with a camera, rather than a paintbrush. But it's still about color and composition, and communicating the stories that repeat themselves over and over again in my mind, its about communicating the out come of my thoughts, of my reactions, of my understanding of it all.

My work is my story told, it is a direct reflection of the constant questioning of the; who I am, what and where is home, and why I am here.. Through my work I am recording history, my history.

Her impressive career has seen her don many professional hats including teaching, an art director, film photographer and a production coordinator for various films and documentaries.

Rahbar has also been a freelance photographer in Iran for several years and her work has been shown in galleries and museums worldwide including Saatchi Gallery and Centre Pompidou.

Rahbars work has been also featured on book covers, album covers and film festival posters. She currently lives and works between New York and Iran.

The exhibition will take place at Carbon 12 March 12 to April 20

## Transahara

Dunes given rest as festival cancelled

The Transahara music festival has been cancelled for 2010 so that the north African dunes can take a respite from the thousands of revellers that fill its sands each year.

Transahara is an international music and artistic event inspired by the breathtaking silence of the desert, which acts as a perfect backdrop for introspections.

The fifth edition of the event, which was set to take place between April 1 to 5 on the south Moroccan desert, was taken off this year's schedule as organisers Nomadstrie said they will give the dunes chance to rest.

"We are sorry to announce that the 2010 edition of Transahara has been cancelled for reasons beyond our humble control," said a statement on their website.

"The best way to put it is that our magical dunes need some rest."

Far from the noise and pollution of the region's cities, Transahara is an event that sees a cross section of people share their musical and artistic tastes in the open air.

Organisers are now planning an even bigger and better event for 2011 in the Merzouga region.

