

Paolo Woods

January 18–March 5, 2011



AnastasiaPhoto is pleased to present Paolo Woods' intimate portraits of Iranian Society.

In 2010 Paolo Woods completed the project *Marche Sur Mes Yeux*, and a corresponding book was published in France in the summer of 2010. The exhibition premiered at the Les Recontres d'Arles in France.

"In 2005, when Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was unexpectedly elected as Iran's president, I began a photo project on Iranian society", says Woods. "I felt that with the arrival of this populist/extremist to the presidency, the divide between how the West viewed Iran and the country I knew as Iran was going to grow at a very fast rate."

"I thus set out to portray a society that is more diverse, human and complex than the stereotypes that have personified it since the Islamic Revolution. I started investigating the Iranian psyche and national identity through the prism of its individual members. I am particularly drawn to the theatricality and the duality of Iranian society: the profound religiousness of the Iranians in spite of the regime's cynical use of religion; the constant clash between modernity and tradition, often within the same person; the obsessive quest for personal success in a system dominated by collective values, in which suffering is upheld as a value in its own right."

Woods' work regularly appears in Time, Newsweek, le Monde, Geo and many other international publications. He has had solo exhibitions in France, US, Italy, China, Spain, Holland and Austria and numerous group shows around the world. His pictures are in the French National Library and the FNAC collection. For his work he has received various prizes including a World Press Photo for his work in Iraq, the "Alstom Prize for Journalism", the GRIN prize in Italy and the Open Society's Moving Walls.

AnastasiaPhoto specializes in Photojournalism and Documentary photography and couples each exhibition with a related Philanthropic Organization. For further questions or information please contact Ryan Steadman at ryan@anastasia-photo.com. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11-7.