

Aneh Mohammad Tatari was born in Turkmen Sahra, and his recent exhibition - an invitation to "dance for God" - reflects the tribal, mystical and colourful background of his homeland - the north-eastern steppes of Iran.

Tatari's large wall hangings of acrylic on cotton reflect a happy melange of styles, reminiscent of his Central Asian roots, Iranian miniatures, icons and Fauviste images. We see figurative forms verging on the abstract, some representing the intimate rituals of family life; domestic scenes, mostly of women, the custodians of the visual expression of the tribe. Other compositions resemble nomad encampments, saintly figures or dancing dervishes, framed often by indecipherable phrases and prayers.

A recurrent motif in Tatari's work is the square, reflecting the Kaaba - the ultimate sacred square - and the four sacred elements of earth, water, fire and air, and their relation to mankind. Another repeated theme is the image of a "Tchacho" also known as "Tchador Shab" (the night veil), the personal silk cover used for weddings and funerals, which with its green, purple and red colours connects life to death.

The dominant red and orange in the paintings reflect the colours of the Turkmen Dasht steppes; the blue refers to the Caspian sea; the figures, semi-abstract undefined forms, whether male or female, are veiled; their luminous serenity reflecting sacred moments.

Tatari's sensual paintings radiate warm luscious colours, often reflecting what could be called a nearly religious feeling for life. Devoid of the disturbing subjects surrounding today's Iran, they act on the viewer like a mental balm.

Tatari teaches fine arts at the University of Tehran and has exhibited extensively in Iran since 1992. His works can be seen in the Tehran Museum of Modern Art, and The British Museum, London.

Rose Issa, February 2002

A Dance for God Raqsi Baray Khoda

Wall hangings by

Aneh Mohammad Tatari

Private View
Monday 25 March 6.30 to 8.30 pm

CCALAGO ARCHIVE

Exhibition runs from 25 March until 21 April 2002
11am to 5pm everyday except Tuesdays

Leighton House Museum 12 Holland Park Road London W14
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This exhibition is being presented in association with:
Iran Heritage Foundation
Leighton House Museum
Tehran Museum of Modern Art
Visiting Arts

