

## **Soody Sharifi: *The Garden of Persian Delights***

Anya Tish Gallery presents the second solo exhibition of Iranian-American photographer, Soody Sharifi: *The Garden of Persian Delights*. The exhibition opens on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Anya Tish Gallery, 4411 Montrose Blvd., and will be on view until March 17, 2007. Special reception for the Artist will take place Friday, February 16, 6:00 to 8:30 pm,

Sharifi's works are digital collages synthesizing the symbolic language of ancient Persian miniatures with the realism of photographs of contemporary silhouettes taken on locations in Teheran and Houston. The Persian miniatures are sophisticated pieces of visual language. They depict court spectacles, scenes of the hunt, grand receptions, and amorous encounters between characters which are more stereotyped than individual. Sharifi wedges into this ancient Persian court life contemporary American iconography, which on one level results in a refreshing and quite humorous juxtaposition. However, these works present the viewer with more than merely humorous reflections. They suggest the conflict between the Western and Muslim worlds, private and public spaces, and the tension between old and new values. Sharifi's genius lies in her ability to present to the viewer visually stunning compositions that possess playfulness and levity yet make us contemplate the realities of converging cultures. Her works in this exhibition are universal, for they represent man's continuous attempt to construct a meaningful synthesis out of diversity, nonetheless these works are autobiographical, for they explore the question of Sharifi's identity, an Iranian American woman who chose not to return to her homeland after the 1979 Iranian Revolution.