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Viborg Kunsthall is pleased to present *The Fury*, an exhibition with new works by the acclaimed Iranian-American artist Shirin Neshat. The show comprises of a double-channel video installation and the premiere on a new virtual reality work produced for Viborg Kunsthall in collaboration with Khora Contemporary and The Animation Workshop.

Shirin Neshat's haunting new virtual reality work and video installation is a fictionalized account of the effect of imprisonment and torture on a young Iranian woman. During the 16 minute long double-channel video we follow the psychological and emotional state of a woman, who lives in the horrors of her past. Although she now lives freely and is walking down the streets of Brooklyn, she remains haunted by memories of sexual assault, torture, and rape. Throughout the entrancing and fragmented narrative Neshat poignantly addresses the issue of the female body as both an object of desire and violence. *The Fury* is a riveting mix of cinematic real time, flashbacks, and dream visions, where Neshat uses music and dance to process and convey the protagonist's trauma.

The virtual reality work captures one pivotal scene of *The Fury* in an all-encompassing 3D effect. It places us inside the room where the protagonist experienced her assault, and we almost feel the physical and emotional brutality ourselves. The work explores how VR can expand and amplify the characteristically exotic, breathtaking, and at the same time completely unfreezing imagery that characterizes Neshat's works. Several of Neshat's cinematic works contain a desire to involve the viewer both physically and emotionally and her new VR work will further contribute to this.

Shot in June 2022, *The Fury* is unsettling and complex. It captures the *zeitgeist* foreboding sense of doom and the dread of witnessing the possibility of the rise of fascism once again. While *The Fury* can be viewed as the continuation of Neshat's exploration of the female body in the context of theocratic politics and gender apartheid of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Its consequential unfolding in New York City is, however, to drive home its international charge. The video installation references two classic cinematic works of the post-war era, Pasolini's *Salo* and Liliana Cavani's *The Night Porter*, to warn viewers against a reductionist identity reading.

In her work, Neshat continuously tackles the issues of power and suppression of women yet never succumbed to portraying women as victims. In *The Fury*, Neshat's female protagonist's silent scream is caught like a virus through empathy. It is a pain that is known, felt, and shared. It is the fury against power everywhere, encircling people.

About the artist

Shirin Neshat was born in Iran in 1957, leaving in 1973 to go to school in the USA. She finished her education with an MFA from Berkley University in California in 1983. Since then, she has lived in New York. Neshat is today the most highly regarded Iranian artist on the international art scene.

Neshat has had numerous exhibitions in international museums and has also received several awards for her films, including the Golden Lion Award at the 48th Venice Biennale (1999). In 2009, Neshat directed her first feature film, *Women Without Men*, which won the Silver Lion Award for 'Best Director' at the 66th Venice International Film Festival. Read more: [Shirin Neshat - Gladstone Gallery](#)

The opening

The Fury opens Thursday, September 21st, at 7pm-9pm, where there will be a welcome and opening speech by Head of Exhibition Bodil Johanne Monrad from Viborg Kunsthall as well as a digital greeting from Shirin Neshat. Opening reception is arranged in connection with [Viborg Animation Festival 2023](#).

Exhibition period: September 22nd 2023 – January 14th 2024.

The exhibition is supported by the Danish Arts Foundation, The Obel Family Foundation, The Augustinus Foundation, Viborg Animation Festival and Viborg municipality.

Credits

Shirin Neshat, *The Fury*, 2022-2023.

The VR work commissioned by Viborg Kunsthall, The Animation Workshop - VIA University College, developed in collaboration with Khora Contemporary. The two-channel video courtesy the artist and Gladstone Gallery. ©Shirin Neshat.

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