



### Performing the Iranian State

Visual Culture and Representations of Iranian Identity

*Edited by Staci Gem Scheiwiller*

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**“Performing the Iranian State: Visual Culture and Representations of Iranian Identity” explores what it means to “perform the State,” what this action means in relation to the country of Iran and how these various performances are represented.**

*“Performing the Iranian State’ is a timely and original contribution to Iranian studies. Beginning with the Qajar era and moving through discussions of the Pahlavi regime, the Iranian Revolution and the Iranian Diaspora, these essays present fascinating case studies of the productive function of visual culture and performativity in constructions of identity and state in Iran.” —Ali Behdad, John Charles Hillis Professor of Literature, UCLA*

*“Blending critical theory with fresh and exciting accounts of essential Iranian art agents, contributors to ‘Performing the Iranian State’ reveal how the country’s oft en-politicized artistic practices challenge or endorse and ultimately “perform” political and national identities. This compelling collection of essays is a seminal addition to the study of modern and contemporary Iranian art.” —Pamela Karimi, author of “Domesticity and Consumer Culture in Iran: Interior Revolutions of the Modern Era”*

This book discusses what it means to “perform the State,” what this action means in relation to the country of Iran and how these various performances are represented. The concept of the “State” as a modern phenomenon has had a powerful impact on the formation of the individual and collective, as well as on determining how political entities are perceived in their interactions with one another in the current global arena.

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Staci Gem Scheiwiller is an assistant professor of contemporary and modern art history at California State University, Stanislaus. She specializes in Iranian art, gender and postcolonialism.

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