

# A VIDEO SCREENING AND ARTIST TALK WITH MANSOOR BEHNAM



Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre is pleased to present a program of short videos and an artist talk with **Mansoor Behnam** (Kerman, Iran) an experimental writer and filmmaker. The program showcases the short experimental film and video works produced by Behnam over the past decade. The screening and artist talk will take place at Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre in the main gallery starting at 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 29, 2011.

Born in 1970 in Kerman, Iran, **Mansoor Behnam** is of the generation that experienced the period before and after the 1979 revolution there. He studied English Literature at Shahid Bahonar University in Kerman in the late 1980s and continued his studies for an MA in Theatre at the University of Art and Architecture Iran in 1995. Mansoor's experimentation with intermediality is reflected in both his writing and filmmaking: a hybrid combination of genres.

He has co-produced several experimental films which have been screened in film festivals; his first co-production "The Well" (2001) was selected at the Baran International Short Film Festival as the best experimental short. In 2004 he wrote "Peep Show," a series of postmodern adaptations of some of Rumi's tales into cut-out animations, broadcast on Iranian TV to celebrate Persian New Year. Behnam immigrated to Canada in 2006 and completed an MA in Comparative Literature at the University of Western Ontario in 2010, working on "Pre-cinematic Spectacle and the Adaptation of A Thousand and One Nights."

He is currently a second year PhD student in Cultural Studies at Queen's University, working simultaneously on his research about Iranian independent cinema and his experimental novella entitled "The faceless portrait of a selfless photographer." The screening is approximately 60 minutes long, with a Q&A to follow. This event is presented by Modern Fuel's New Media Workspace, an equipment and training resource for aspiring video artists in Kingston, that aims to promote the production and presentation of experimental film and video. The screening is presented concurrently with the exhibitions *Correspondences* by Abbas Akhavan and *Solar Flares and Spires* by Michael Amar,

which both close on the 29th of October. Image: Mansoor Behnam and Iraj Esmaelpour Ghoochani, *The Well*, digital video (still), 2001.