

STUDIO
DARMANGAH

Mohammad Ghazali
With These Hands..., 2004

I am always preoccupied with myself, with knowing myself, but in this collection I have turned my attention to the daily commuters of Tehran's subway system. The focus here is on hands, the warm hands of commuters, attached to so many bodies. The empty gaze of the passengers took me by surprise. They sat there without the slightest extra movement, without trying to establish contact, like statues, or icemen. What does this coldness say about us? Is it one of the byproducts of modern living? Is it a form of everydayness?

*"These hands have time after time made deals; with these hands you have felt the material of trousers or coats which you wanted to sell and you have with these very hands counted the money you received for them...

Large sums of money have been spent by these hands; for the train, cigarettes and liquor. With these hands you have taken money from the black market and again spent it in the black market. Yes, you have done all this with these hands. With these hands you have made a fist in your pocket; with these hands you have opened the doors to luxurious hotels and dark dingy cafes; you have washed these hands in the waters of the Black and the Atlantic. These hands have taken many things but have in return given little.

With these hands you have dug the earth and torn a piece of your shirt. With these hands you have forged leaves of absence and written on them the names of your choice...

With these hands you have shot pellets of paper through pen tubes at the teacher's desk. You have dirtied your hands with the ink of a fountain pen long broken. At one time you caressed your mother's bosom while suckling; a time which you no longer can recall; with these hands you clutched your school bag. Your hands were soaked in blood, in blood that congealed and turned black; in blood that was his or yours, just like the hands of butchers; these very hands..."

* Excerpt from the short story "With these Hands" from the book The Green Silk Shirt by Heinrich Böll.



With these Hands...
 2004
 Analog Photography
 Lambda Print
 Each panel: 60 x 90 cm
 overall: 120 x 360 cm
 Edition of 7















