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Rahraw Omarzad / Shapur Amini  
(Afghanistan)

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Started by **imagineartafter** at 03:36pm Oct 28, 2005 GMT

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**[JuliaFarrington](#)** - 12:18pm Oct 31, 2005 GMT (1.)

hi Rahraw and Shapur and welcome to the dialogue. I hope all goes well with you both. Everything is ready now and it has been very exciting getting to this point. I am really looking forward to seeing the dialogue get underway.

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**[ShapurAmini](#)** - 08:33pm Oct 31, 2005 GMT (2.)

With my warm salams and greetings to you my compatriot, Mr. Rahraw Omarzai. I am very sorry for coming to the dialogue late. I am sure we will have a lot to

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share and talk about - I am glad to be working with someone of your high standard and experience. I am pleased that this project will give us the opportunity, the time and the space to explore and discover a lot more about yourself and the art in and of Afghanistan and no doubt present many new and interesting cultural matters. I have just moved to a new flat and the internet connection is giving me a hard time. Hopefully by tomorrow every thing will be working. As you can see from my CV, I am getting back in touch with Afghanistan, in a more hands on direct manner, and this is the first time I have had a dialogue with an Afghan artist, based actually in the country. It is very interesting that soon I will be travelling to Afghanistan once this project is concluded. I am very much looking forward talking to you and meeting you. With Regards Shapur Amini

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 06:49pm Nov 1, 2005 GMT ([3.](#))

Hello for the second time and in the second day of this project and the dialogue. So far there is no news from you Mr. Rahraw Omarzai. I hope you are OK and every thing is fine. If I may, I like to start the dialogue and hope you could join me soon. I think by creating the atmosphere and going through the first stages in the dialogue are as important as the end of the dialogue. To start, it is better if we call each other by our first name Shapur & Rahraw. I am sure this is more friendly in Kabul as well as in London. This is what I do remember from 25 years ago when I was in Kabul. Right now, waiting to hear from you reminds me of the last two decades of war and terror in Afghanistan where hardly any news and communication was possible. But today, there is a different story. I would also like to know if you have internet at home or you have to go to an internet cafe. Hope you have enough electricity to be able to operate. As we are coming to the end of fasting month, Ramadan, I take this opportunity to send you my warmest Eid Mubarak and convey my salams and Eid mubark to family and friends. Hope to talk to you soon. Shapur

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■ [JuliaFarrington](#) - 11:25pm Nov 1, 2005 GMT ([4.](#))

Shapur, I have just received an email from Rahraw with the sad news that his uncle has died and that he is with his family and he will not be able to take part in the dialogue

easily though he said he would try to find time. Let's speak tomorrow.

And to Rahraw I am sure I am speaking for everyone in imagine art after, that although we do not know you in real life, we feel we have got to you know you a little through our work together so far, and we we send sympathy and thoughts to you and your family at this sad time.

Julia

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■ [BredaBeban](#) - 08:53am Nov 2, 2005 GMT ([5.](#))

My condolence, Rahraw. Hope you are ok and that it will be possible for you to join us very very soon.

Breda

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■ [TatjanaStrugar](#) - 09:55am Nov 2, 2005 GMT ([6.](#))

My condolence, Rahraw. tatjana

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 06:31pm Nov 2, 2005 GMT ([7.](#))

Dear Rahraw, my condolence to you and the family. Hope to hear from you soon.

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 09:27pm Nov 5, 2005 GMT ([8.](#))

Hello Rahraw. I hope everything is OK by now and you are alright. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Hi Breda, Julia and the rest of the team. I hope everyone is fine and the artists are doing well. Today is the third day of Eid. Happy Eid to you all. Here in London, we had a very nice musical event. Ustad Iltaf Hussain Sarahang was our guest. Ustad Aref and the talented Yousof Mahmoud, the young Ustad, were there. We had a remarkable time with our professional musicians and artists. Soon I will be including some pictures for you to look and enjoy. By the way, as I have mentioned before, I have moved to another flat. Although, my telephone and the internet providers were informed weeks before, yet, it took several weeks to have the phone line working again but the internet is not working. Thanks God we live in the 21st. century

otherwise I was with out phone and internet services for the rest of the decade. Today, I was told that some one from my ISP will call me on Monday. We will see. It is good that at least we have electricity. Here comes my first question to Rahraw. How often do you have electricity in Kabul?

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 08:55pm Nov 7, 2005 GMT ([9.](#))

Hi Rahraw. I hope you are OK and coming to the dialogue soon. I will collect a series of photos for our dialogue. Look forward to hearing from you.

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 03:48pm Nov 12, 2005 GMT ([10.](#))

Greetings Rahraw, I hope you are OK and everything is back to normal. To be honest, nowadays I am not sure what is, seems or counts as normal in Kabul/Afghanistan. Hopefully, you will be able to tell me. Although our live dialogue is still awaits your arrival and availability, I like to start from my side and tell you about myself, my work and the 25 years or more that I have lived out side Afghanistan. I thank the creators and supporters of this Project for this great opportunity. I owe a life time to my second birth place and home for hospitality, support and opportunities we Afghans have received since our arrivals here. And of course, my sincere thanks go to those honorable personalities whose teachings, guidance, support, friendship and experiences, from my birth till now, have shaped and design my artistic and academic life. Today was Saturday in Afghanistan. The first working day of the week. I think it would be excelent to have two days as weekend so people could do different things and of course for kids to be with their families. I am still busy with my new flat. I will try to get back online later on. There i a lot to talk about. Hope to hear from you soon as well. Have a nice weekend everyone.

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 07:09pm Nov 13, 2005 GMT ([11.](#))

Hi, As it was Sunday today, I had to do my last shopping for my new flat. Although my partner Rahraw is stii engaged with serious family matter but, from tomorrow, I will be writing about my life, career and work. I also have a unique project for Afghanistan that I am working on at

present. I will be online earlier tomorrow.

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■ **ShapurAmini** - 02:49pm Nov 15, 2005 GMT ([12.](#))

Hi Rahraw, I hope you are OK and looking forward to hearing from you soon. Hello Breda, thank you for the email and congratulation to Senayt for the new baby. With the present situation in Afghanistan, I thought we should be able to find out where Rahraw is and what he is doing. I am sure we can find out from the university or his work place. As an Afghan, I illustrate the situation in Afghanistan in 3 stages. The first stage was when we have spent our childhood with very good memories and of course we had peace, security, respect and joy around us. To me, that was the true Afghanistan. I have witnessed the Afghan way of life, the hospitality and respect, especially if you were a foreigner and many more that travelers to Afghanistan always enjoyed. That is the identity of the Afghans which neither ignorance nor terrorism can change that. The second stage includes the periods of political changes, invasion and civil wars, which was from the last days of King Zahir in 1973 till the fall of Taliban in 1996. The third stage has started with the coming of the new Afghan government and the elected president, Mr. Hameed Karzai. It is very interesting to see that in the second stage, people had fear from the so called governments or the oppositions to the governments of that time. But now, people are in fear of each other and the opposition to the system or to the peace is more or less like a ghost. This is the worst stage in the Afghan history. I hope Rahraw experience and comments in this dialogue could help us more with these assumptions.

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■ **ShapurAmini** - 06:23pm Nov 15, 2005 GMT ([13.](#))

From my school days in Kabul, I remember a story about two artists. They both wanted to paint and of course did their best to impress one another. The first artist has painted a bird. It was beautiful and really impressive. Then he asks the second artist to show his painting. The second artist says that his painting is behind the curtain. The first artist approaches the curtain to remove it. By doing that he realizes that the curtain itself was the creation of the second artist. The message of this story and my artistic work and career has something in

common. At the beginning, my life and career were separate. I was a photographer and film maker. Suddenly, I have found myself face to face with thousands of Afghans in need of assistance in London. By the way, London can resemble Afghanistan as far as the groupings and political parties were concerned. This was the case in 1990s although not much visible now. With many Afghans in London and the lack of Afghan groups and organizations, especially groups with out political and tribal interests and intentions, I have formed Afghan Academy an organization to promote educational, cultural and social activities among Afghans. All theses years, I was there for others and not for myself or my career. Like that film in which the photographer finally drops his camera and picks up the gun to defend himself and those around him. With the disappearing of Taliban from power, most Afghans, including myself, hoped for a better future in Afghanistan. Afghans in the United Kingdom do not have the same hardship that they had at the beginnings. Issues such as immigration, housing, food, education, family reunion and many more do not bother the majority of Afghans. Some even have started traveling to Afghanistan for pleasure or business. For me, the timing is just right. I have decided to work for a unique project. I am working for the establishment of an Afghan Satellite TV Channel in London to be broadcasted to Afghanistan and Afghan viewers around the world. This project will give me a unique opportunity to have my hand on photography, film and television again. I hope to recover what I have missed all these years. At present, I have formed atv studios. It is an Afghan TV Studio for producing TV programs and making films and documentaries. Afghanistan needs support and a great deal of support. We know that the international community by themselves can not help. We know that the new government on its own can not do it. It is the people who can come out and take the three decades of war and destructions as an example of evil and avoid any vital mistake. With our unique cultural heritage, we can make democracy pave the way for peace, security, development and freedom of expression and artistic freedom. My readings and life time experience has made me an artist as well as an educator. Yet, there is a lot to learn & explore.

Shapur, the imagine art after team is continuously making attempts to contact Rahraw in order to make sure that he is ok in Kabul...we are still waiting

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■ [RahrawOmarzad](#) - 08:27am Nov 17, 2005 GMT (15.)

Dear Shapur, Hope your doing well and ok and sorry for the delay because my uncle dait and after that i had an exhibition on juesday 15 of November in french culture center to show my 9 video performance so i could not send you e-mails know also i am bassy with exhibition of young artist i am the organiser of this exhibition. you asked about the electricity in Kabul and the possibility of internet. now from three months ago we have three times a week from 8 or 9 pm for 3 or 4 hours i feel like we don't have electricity in our city often in our office and in our home we use generator but always it is not possible any way for using internet we mostly i have to wait for 20 or 30 up to 45 to use the internet because in our location we have only one internet cafe. now also i am sending you from internet cafe. my question that how is the effect of migration on your art or artistic activities my English is not good if there is some mistake of spelling sorry for that. hope to hear from you. best Rahraw

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 04:42pm Nov 17, 2005 GMT (16.)

Dear Rahraw, it was very nice to hear from you and I am glad everything is OK with you. I love to know more about your work, teaching and other activities. I like to know about Afghan Photography, film & TV industries. I also like to know how many films are made in Afghanistan in the last 25 years. Who are the artists, film-makers and TV personalities in the country and everything else you like to add. Before I explain the effect of migration on my art and artistic activities, I like to comment on the philosophy of art as we know it. I like to consider art as it is used for many purposes. Art nowadays has many faces and functions. If art is for pleasure and/or creating concept, then those concepts can be read in many ways. This is to say that art can be used for artistic work or education, personal discovery, capturing moments and creating concepts or conveying meanings and messages. In my life, as an Afghan, 25 years away from my country, the first

thing I knew was family, friends, happiness, peace, joy and simple life for people. When I have left Afghanistan, the next thing I witnessed was political crisis in my country, killings, wars, political parties and of course many kind of governments with very different ideologies. With my studies and all these issues in my mind, I could not go any other way but to think for solutions to Afghans sufferings and the crisis in Afghanistan. I had all these years to learn and talk to many people about different things, organize seminars, publish monthly magazine and assist Afghans with their needs. I have become involved in something bigger than life. As you can see Rahraw, the effect of migration made me a new person. If I was in Afghanistan all these years of course I had to work to feed myself and find a roof over my head. Or join this political group or another because I speak the same language etc etc etc. Many thanks to God, here in London we have different system which has allowed me to devote my life for the cause I loved and believed. Especially knowing that here in London we have everything and life is safe and secure, but in Afghanistan starvation, killing, suffering and much more was the fate of millions. The effect of migration has made me who I am today, an artist and a philosopher in my own right. Doing what I did all these years made me very ambitious. So much that to me even a career in photography or film industry in itself can not satisfy me. I got involved so much with my country and the suffering of my people that I have particularly chosen the TV as a medium to communicate with and use it as a window for promoting arts, culture, education, entertainment in Afghanistan and among Afghans around the world. This is not just a project but a solution to many of the crisis in my country. It will help Afghans to bring peace and keep it, understand democracy and practice it and defeat terrorism and ignorance with one stone. I am sorry I was carried away. I could not help it. This is me with the effect of migration on my art and my activity. I have collected images to show you. I am still like you use the internet shop. My internet service at my home will be normal on 25 of November. But you will see the images I hope much earlier. I would like you to talk about your life and activities. How well did you survive all these years and what you have been doing in different political stages of political crisis in Afghanistan. I like to know what people – from ordinary people in the street to intellectuals and artist – nowadays think about life and situation in Kabul

and else where. Here in London, people talk about many issues such as: - Who is in charge and responsible for what is happening in Afghanistan (good or bad)? - How is the image of Afghans who were in the western countries and now in Afghanistan working with the government or NGOs? - Explain the life in Kabul since the coming of MR. Karzai after the fall of Taliban? - Here people talk about corruption and many more hot issues. What do you think? I think I said enough. You take care and we will be taking to you soon again.

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■ **BredaBeban** - 07:09am Nov 20, 2005 GMT ([17.](#))

later today I'll start creating the imagine at after gallery - still no images from you guys!

Shapur, I understand your curiosity about the situation in Afghanistan, but the amount of 'grand' questions in you last message is rather substantial. Given the electricity cuts in Kabul...guess it would take quite a while for Rahraw to get back...

Rahraw, the exhibition of young artists you are organising - it would be gerat if you could upload few examples of the work & the show. Also, do you have images of some of your most recent performances?

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■ **RahrawOmarzad** - 03:24pm Nov 20, 2005 GMT ([18.](#))

- j°I like to know what people °C from ordinary people in the street to intellectuals and artist °C nowadays think about life and situation in Kabul and else where. Here in London, people talk about many issues such as: - Who is in charge and responsible for what is happening in Afghanistan (good or bad)? - How is the image of Afghans who were in the western countries and now in Afghanistan working with the government or NGOs? - Explain the life in Kabul since the coming of MR. Karzai after the fall of Taliban? - Here people talk about corruption and many more hot issues. What do you think? I think I said enough. You take care and we will be taking to you soon again;±. - I will try to writ you the answer of all your question which I copied above but know I prefer to com aging in about you artistic activities would you please give me same information - About your artistic

activities when you were in Iran and when you were in Afghanistan and now in London how many film or photo exhibitions you did there. - About my artistic activities as I mentioned that I am Editor -in-chief of art magazine by the name of Gahnama Honar and also I am teaching drawing and Painting in Faculty of fine art in Kabul University also I am working for the CCAA Center for Contemporary art Afghanistan as a Director. in all these activities mostly I am busy with the student and young artist - I was student in art courses which is running by Ministry culture and in formation after three year I graduated from this course in painting department. Then I went to Faculty of fine arts unfortunately the aggression of Raisin I was thinking that I can not do any thing with painting against this attract so I start to draw cartons and distributed as a secret fob that no body should know about it without my family. I was not involve with any of the opposition party because I want to be independent in my reaction and thing for this aggression as an artist I also believe the artist should be free from political party to thing free and to be free . during the( Kalqi and Parchame) government I had a very bad time in my life when the mojaheden came in Kabul the civil ware started and the city destroyed as you can not thing about how they destroy there own city and there own country so I went to Peshawar as a refuge and I start teaching in Institute of Fine Arts for four year and also I start teaching for Afghan refuge drawing, painting and sculpture be said that I start to publish the sport magazine . - When the Taliban com in Afghanistan I start to publish an art magazine first I wanted to do it only in visual art artist but then I put the other part like cinema theater and music to . - The memorable time for me was the three meting with artist in my house before I start the magazine I invite the artist to inform them that I want to start such activities and we should work all to gather most of the artist fear from such activities because they ware thinking that the Pakistan government are supporting the Taliban and the Taliban ware against the fine art specially painting and drawing sculpture cinema music and our magazine is abut all to encourage the artist and art so they ware thinking that the Taliban throw the Pakistan government will find us and then they will make big problem for us and we are in Pakistan to be safe from Taliban by publishing the art magazine they will find us andj - After tree mating same of them become ready to

do the interview with the magazine and also we had same interview with Taliban in Kabul also about the bode in Bamyar do they destroy it or not and the second interview was about the Faculty of fine art this issue was very memorable issue for me then we continue the magazine with a lot of other memorable happiness in Pakistan. - I started to paint and draw for to be life I did lots of illustration poster for NGOs and painting for selling I print lots of postcard from my painting and sold it so I worked mostly for food but in art magazine I was and I am working to do my responsibility for Afghanis artistic and cultural society when I was in Pakistan I paid for all the expenses and printing the magazine through selling my art works. Now I have to leave the internet cafe. - yes Breda Beban today we had another exhibition of young artist there painting drawing and few installation the exhibition was in cafeteria of Kabul University 13 young artist (art student in the faculty of fine art) whom are working in CCAA . on 15 of nov. we had an video performance exhibition in French Culture Center and we showed 9 of our video performance with music which you have are with our music . my recent performance are Circular, , reopening and two dimension the two first are showing the old system or method of teaching in Kabul University and the last one is about men and women in the world I will try to show you few examples next time.

All the best - Rahraw Omarzad -

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**RahrawOmarzad** - 03:31pm Nov 21, 2005 GMT (19.)

Dear Shapur, Hope you are doing well and ok I am waiting for your reply. all the best

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**ShapurAmini** - 02:38pm Nov 22, 2005 GMT (20.)

Hello Rahraw, I am glad you are OK now. Your work and activities are very much appreciated. Now that the situation is better and safer, I am sure artists, especially young ones, will have a chance to express themselves more freely. This is a new era in Afghan history and I hope everything goes well for the people and the country. I entirely agree with you about the artists and their freedom from political activities. We both stand on the same ground. I am happy that the new system in

Afghanistan supports and encourages the arts, music, films etc. I have studied photography, film and television in Iran. Unfortunately, I could not return back to Afghanistan and I have finally arrived in London. Here in London, again I had to continue my studies. I have made some short films while I was studying for my degree. Recently, I have made some short films while I was doing a course on digital cameras and editing with final cut pro. From my activities in Afghan Academy since 1995, I have made an excellent selection of videos tapes from seminars and lectures by many Afghan scholars such as late academician Dr. Javid, Ustad Aziz Naim, Prof. Hashimi, Dr. Mosavi and many more speakers who were invited by Afghan Academy. We had also guest speakers from other countries like USA & Europe. Here in London, Afghan Academy has held many cultural and musical events and celebration of Afghan New Year etc. With two colleagues in London, we are about to finish a music video/DVD for Afghan singer Mahmood Camen. In January 2006, I will be traveling to Pakistan and then Afghanistan to start a new documentary film. At the moment, I am working on a project for an Afghan Satellite TV channel from London. Hopefully, this channel will be broadcasting daily to Afghanistan and Afghan viewers around the world. It will be very hard but I will do everything I can to achieve it. I will need a lot of material especially from Afghanistan to establish an archive for this project. I hope, one day we will be working together. I will upload some pictures from the seminars, Afghan community in London and some Afghans musicians in London. Take care and best wishes.

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■ [BredaBeban](#) - 03:06pm Nov 22, 2005 GMT ([21.](#))

R & S, we are half way through the project - would be nice if both of you could upload some IMAGES.

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■ [BredaBeban](#) - 09:38am Nov 24, 2005 GMT ([22.](#))

Rahraw, the fact that you are not really committing to the dialogue - is it for a reason you don't want to discuss?

Do you think that another artist from Afghanistan could have been more appropriate for this project? If yes who?

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 05:47pm Nov 24, 2005 GMT ([23.](#))

Hello Rahraw, I am sorry that I got engaged with some work and could not write to you earlier. As you have not replied to my last message, I imagine you are busy with the exhibitions and work too. So far, we have not been able to communicate fully. Many questions I have asked was not commented or answered. I don't know if arts and photography, film or TV, and those involved in these fields, are under any censorship or control. From what I know, there is not any obstacle to this project or our dialogue in Afghanistan and there should not be. So far, we have not been able to engage ourselves in a full dialogue or discussion. I did not receive any answers, comments or information on some of my previous writings. I did not have any comments or questions from Rahraw either on my work, activities and projects. As far as my background is concerned, as an artist, there was a time that I found myself as the head of a community organization (Afghan Academy). I am the editor of a monthly magazine called Mellat. I am organizing shows, gatherings, cultural activities and musical event and festivals. I was involved in providing guidance, information, advice and assistance to Afghan refugees (families, elderly, men & women, youth and single parents). I am still the same person but with many more and unique projects and activities. Now, I am using the medium of photography, film and television to express myself as well as portraying realities and capturing moments of sadness or glory. At the same time, I use all forms of art for creating concepts, beautiful images, convey messages and at the same time, promote art and culture and learning in general. Although, I was 25 years away from Afghanistan, I am very fortunate to find myself among a large population of Afghans in United Kingdom. Among them are many good friends and work force, scholars, historians, poets, artists, musicians and film makers. This is my life story and here I am with my hands, back in media and artistic activities. I have found the last message in the dialogue which was from Breda, very interesting if not insulting. I hope Rahraw would be able to answer the question asked by Breda. From my side, I am sorry if I am not the right artist or partner involved in the project. Although the answer or comment has not come from Rahraw yet for Breda's comment or question. As I have moved home, although I have the same phone number, but, I was delayed by my internet service provider, Homecall, since first week of October. Today,

they said by the end of this month I will have access to internet from my flat. Nevertheless, I can start uploading images from today or tomorrow.

Till next time.

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■ **RahrawOmarzad** - 04:53pm Nov 25, 2005 GMT ([24.](#))

dear BredaBeban ! *want to send some image to Shapoor and i tride since two days ago , but the site password not correct ( art3fact)*. if u can please send me the correct password or show me how i can use the site ( [imagineartafter.net/upload](http://www.imagineartafter.net/upload) ). best regards Rahraw Omarzad

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■ **BredaBeban** - 12:41pm Nov 28, 2005 GMT ([25.](#))

Here are a series of photographs from Rahraw. Rahraw, could you tell us a bit more about them?

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Eline

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■ **ShapurAmini** - 07:48pm Nov 28, 2005 GMT ([26.](#))

Hi Rahraw, I have uploaded images today. I hope they are OK. Rahraw, your images are very good and impressive. I will be commenting on each and every one of them tomorrow. Hi Julia, Breda and evry one in the team and dialogue. I hope everything is OK with all artists. Breda, I am extremely sorry for my misunderstanding. I am very tired from the work in the new flat and I thought it wrong. My appology. You are invited for a nice Afghan food when

you have time. Let me know please. Rahraw, Like to know if you are ready for a live talk. Take care. Hope to hear from you soon.

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 07:55pm Nov 28, 2005 GMT ([27.](#))

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Imagine Art After Image

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■ **RahrawOmarzad** - 06:10pm Nov 29, 2005 GMT  
(28.)

Dear shapor hopw your doing well and ok to day in very diffcalty i kcould sign in becouse of same problom on internet net working finaly after one hour! any whay i saw all your photose wase very nic do you waant to say same thing about your photose in generaespicilly about the concept of 291 292 302 the 295 wase very nic i like it very much who wase on the photose of no 305,up to 313. regarding to your activites i am very happy that your active person for art and Afghanistan.

It is good news for us that you are working on a project for an afghan satellite TV channel from London ,specially if this channel will be broadcast daily around the world we( Center for Contemporary Art Afghanistan and Gahnama-e-Hunar " Art magazine") are happy to cooperate you for this project. I want to know the concept of your video films and what do their aspect turn on. And also I am willing to know about the activities of the academy regarding the artistic and cultural situation inside Afghanistan . and what will be the role and cooperations of the academy for development and progression of art and culture in Afghanistan. Also I want to be informed of your magazine(Mellat) that what does it talk about and with which section it is related? Artistic? You are coming to Afghanistan. Is it only for making document films or aims for creating communications with Afghanistan's artistic centers. Regarding to your question the situation for development of art is getting better daily and gradually. Several new cinema and theatre centers are created in Afghanistan. Two national festival theatre has been held in Afghanistan that several provinces were included there. As well as conferences, workshops and seminars are taken by foreign artists in Afghanistan for cinema, theatre, photography, painting, in

result it causes new experiences and informations about art. The least regards are paid for calligraphy and miniature. Only the Italy and specially Germany has supported the department of sculpture and faculty of fine arts . in general for development of sculpture has not been regarded. some of the art centers were working on sculpture in past , but not reopened yet. In Afghanistan cinema, theatre and journalisms are mostly regarded now. Generally the art condition in Afghanistan is hopeful. I wish this hopes be distributed through world. All the countries of the world see Afghanistan by its TV and radio channels, regretfully this two only show the poorness, pains, disasters and war not the success and efforts that are taken for growth of Afghanistan. When I see some foreigner that come to Afghanistan, they say that our imaginary is too different when we are in. best wishes  
Rahraw Omarzad

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■ [BredaBeban](#) - 11:05am Nov 30, 2005 GMT ([29.](#))

Rahraw, one of your photos (image No 277, message 25, Nov 28) shows opening of an exhibition. It's great to see that the majority of people are young and there's lots of women in the crowd. Who are this people?

Shapur, thanks for the invitation - be nice to have Afghan food together, but at the moment there's just too much to do.

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 08:42pm Nov 30, 2005 GMT ([30.](#))

Salam Rahraw, I am glad you have commented on some of the pictures. The first image reads Koochi of West Ealing (an Afghan owned café shop). In this image, I have resembled myself as a Koochi which is the traveler in our language and of course echoes many concepts. West Ealing is the area where I have lived for the last 25 years in London. Sure Bazar is an Afghan Shop in Ealing owned by a young talented Afghan artist and singer, Hashmat Easanmand. Hashmat has produced 4 or 5 of his CDs here in London. He is related to Mahmoud Kamen, who is another Afghan singer living in London. 291 & 292 are Afghan products that traditionally Afghan community love them and Afghan businesses providing them. Number 302, if I am not mistaken the number, portrays poverty and no matter where you are it still exists and is painful

like the bare feet Afghan children in your pictures. Thanks to Media, when & if it is available, you can see almost everything anywhere on earth, in this space or out of space. No doubt Media is doing a great job. The recent campaign and contribution of individuals, groups, artists, singers, musicians to fight poverty with one soul was a unique event to remember. With Afghan community around and guests visiting London, life becomes sweeter here. Afghans in United Kingdom, among many other things love music. In image number 305 to 313 you see the Afghan famous Tabla player Ustad Aref, who is the brother of Ustad Asef and late Ustad Hashim. The singer is Ustad Iltaf Hussain, son of master of Afghan classical music and ghazal, late Ustad Sarahang. The young Afghan who is kissing the hand of our guest Ustad Iltaf is show his love and respect for the artist and musician as well as the art of music. The very young one with a beard is Esham, a young amateur musician and singer in London. Your images reminded me of the times when I was in Afghanistan. It is very sad to see and hear the stories, sufferings and poverty in the country. It will be a sweet dream to see all the money for Afghanistan going for Afghanistan. This is the simple fact that those bare feet and those in the pictures are us, Afghans. It is high time we Afghans have stopped glorifying the untouchable past or our honor, wealth and status. I will be honored to see as a human being another human being in a good condition and good standard of living. At the same time, I will be ashamed to see the opposite, in Afghanistan or any country for that matter. I remember even in those days, some children in our area from the local women's bakery shop were walking bare feet. Of course even then not as a choice. I lived in Sarak Awal, Kart-e-Char. I still have a sketch from my house and the neighborhood, you will see it soon. Your pictures Rahraw, with the people, trees, cars and everything else in them, had a deep inner dialogue within me when I viewed them for the very first time. I very much liked the one with you in the mirror, the log and axe, weights on the scale and everything around them, your work and exhibition. Especially the revolutionary Water Melon. To me, it says a lot. Some of your pictures remind me of some Afghan proverbs. The plate and water melon and knives and forks interpret the image to me like a heart, country or the world in general. It reflects pain from violence, poverty, injustice and lack of tolerance and deliberate imprisonment of life,

civilization, science, technology and humanity in general. As we say it “dill-e-ma az dist-e-dunia daagh daagh hast”. Which translates as, my heart has burnt, marks from the crisis of the world. Even some times people when complain about each other in a friendly way, we say this proverb. Rahraw, I am very happy that you are interested in the TV Channel for Afghanistan. I love to work with honorable and academic professionals (like yourself), either here or in Afghanistan. This is something that we have to talk more even in our email. By the way my email is shapur3ms@yahoo.co.uk . I will be uploading pictures from me and Afghan Academy and Afghan community in London from very earlier days. More uploads are also coming from Afghan Academy, the work, seminars, festivals and other activities in London. As an educational, cultural and social organization, Afghan Academy aims to introduce Afghan Satellite TV Channel. This new project will do everything Afghan Academy does, but hopefully in the near future, all our activities and services (plus many more projects and activities) will be available with a digital format and global context. I will be discussing the project with more detail with you and I will appreciate your full cooperation. I will be working with you from London or side by side in Afghanistan. Take care and talk to you soon.

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■ **[JuliaFarrington](#)** - 12:26pm Dec 2, 2005 GMT ([31.](#))

Hi Shapur, Technical difficulties in Kabul so Rahraw has emailed images and is emailing a message too which I will post up as soon as it arrives. Here are examples of students and young artists' work.

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=283> - young artist

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=284> - young artist

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=285> - young artist

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=286> - wahab's installation

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=287> -

student's painting

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=288> -  
student's painting

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■ **[ShapurAmini](#)** - 02:34am Dec 3, 2005 GMT ([32.](#))

Dear Rahraw, thanks for the new photos. I was too busy with collecting the images and uploading them. Thanks to my friend Zobayr who kindly helped me till almost 3 in the morning. Here are some more images. Tomorrow, I will be writing my stories and comments about them. About the activities and future work of Afghan Academy and work for artistic & cultural activities inside Afghanistan, I must talk to you more in this matter. Our project, atv Studios & Afghan Satellite TV Channel hopefully will be our future work and activity for Afghanistan. Here are the images and I hope you would enjoy watching them. Talk to you tomorrow.

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=458> -  
Academician Dr.javid

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=459> - Usatd  
Aziz Naim <http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=460> - Seminar

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=461> -  
Hashimi & Arianfar

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=462> - Dr.  
Enayat Iblagh <http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=463> - Book Stall & Semiar

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=464> -  
Seminar <http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=465> - 1995 First Seminar

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=466> - Me &  
My Wife Assiya

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=467> - My  
Brother Najib <http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=468> - Ealing Library

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=469> -  
Student/Seminar

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=470> -  
Professionalism

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=471> -  
Musical Festival

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=472> -  
Afghan Community

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=473> - Achievements  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=474> - Afghan Gathering  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=475> - Mohmoud Kamen  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=476> - Artist Shawali  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=477> - Artist Javid Popal  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=478> - Wahid Arghandaywal  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=479> - Master Tabla Player  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=480> - Talanted Tabla Player  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=481> - Shaifq  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=482> - Hosting Artists  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=483> - Naseer Pajman  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=484> - Baseer Haider - film  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=485> - S.I.Fatimi/Journalist  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=486> - Simon Bell - Friend  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=487> - S.Khan Sediqi/Friend  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=488> - Nasrat 1  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=489> - Nasrat 2  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=490> - Nasrat 3  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=491> - Nasrat 4  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=492> - Nasrat 5  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=493> - Videos - Seminars  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=494> - Afghan Films  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=495> - Farhad Arghandaywal  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=496> - Habib Amir - Future  
<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=497> - M.Zobayr/G.Designer

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 11:36pm Dec 3, 2005 GMT ([33.](#))

Hi Rahraw, I hope you are Ok. In my dialogue, I have included images from my work, family, scholars, artists,

singers, musicians and those around me... In fact, these images portray me, my activities and those who I really adore. They are unique representatives of our community. They include Pushton, Tajik, Uzbac, Hazara and all other excellent personalities and individuals. I was lucky to have many educated and professionals around me. My wife Assiya has devoted her life like me to the cause of Education, Culture, Arts, and Music etc. This is an Afghan girl who left Afghanistan when she was only four. Assiya has finished her degree in Design Media Management. She is an artist. I owe everything to her. Soon you will see some of her work. My brother Najib Amini, a scholar, writer, poet and a unique help and support to our work and activities. In the picture that reads professionalism, I like to bring to your attention that Afghan Academy has survived the declination of joining this political or tribal group or the other one. In the picture, you see Dr. Yasameen Juna, historian, Dr. Gull Padsha Jewandoon, a poet and writer, Sayed Ismail Fatimi, Radio broadcaster and journalist, Sharif Saiq, poet and writer, Sayed Sarwar Dehmal Safi, TV broadcaster, writer and scholar, and me and my wife with our youngest daughter Madina, who is now 4 years old. This is a unique sample representative of our teams. As an independent group, our work and activities have a special place among Afghans in United Kingdom and those who are involved with us through networking. Afghan Community in London is a unique community. To me, it is like a small Afghanistan, fully active, everyone in their own circle and group. Now, everything is getting better. Among everything else, I was very lucky to have very good friends. Of course they are more than friends and I am proud of them and appreciate their support and role in the society. The two good friends that I have included in my last images, the two names Salamat Khan Sediqi and Simon Bell, portray my best friends and work team. What makes our work more unique than all other Afghan organization in UK is the fact that so far we did not get any grant for our activities and we all have worked free all our life. The good thing is that our work and activities themselves bring income. These are from the participations to our activities, support, magazine subscription, seminars entrance fee, selling books, holding shows and cultural festivals. So, as they say, we have achieved sustainability at work and thanks to the Afghan Community in United Kingdom for their appreciation and support. Afghans have achieved a lot in

the UK, especially in the last ten years. Now we have businesses, young generation and their studies, who have achieved Masters and Phd. degrees, like Habib Amir, who has recently graduated from Oxford; a unique talent and expert in his field, computer and media. Afghan marshal, especially Tae Kwan Do, is another success in UK. We have Master Yousof Deldar, Usman Deldar and Farhad Arghandewal as few examples. These are my 25 years of life and growing in London. For the new project, Afghan Satellite TV channel, I will be asking Afghans around the world to take part in this project and support our activities and aims for a better Afghanistan and long lasting peace, happiness and enlightenment among Afghans where ever they are and those inside the country. There are few pictures that I have not talked about. I leave them far now and when we talk about abuse of prisoners and some other issues we deal with them. It is interesting to see many Afghans in the West are taking music, TV and cinema more serious then painting etc. While inside Afghanistan, and in a larger scale in Pakistan and Iran, Afghans are more in painting and other forms of art. The messages of each artist in your last images are very interesting. You almost can see the artist some where in the painting. While my artistic piece of works are the groups I work with and their professionalism and their love to help Afghans and Afghanistan to develop and progress and for all kinds of activities and arts to flourish. Afghans outside Afghanistan and Afghans inside Afghanistan are equally matter and are important. They together can build a better country and system. The stories which come from Afghanistan shows that some Afghans from the Western countries are much better off as far as work, wages and positions are concerned. It is very interesting. But of course not always true in all cases. The lucky ones are lucky. It is a challenge for the rest of the society to compete in a positive manner in order to gain better opportunities and achieve high status. My last comment, who are the main elected members of parliament in Kabul? Talk to you soon.

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**[JuliaFarrington](#)** - 12:40am Dec 5, 2005 GMT ([34](#).)

Hi Shapoor this message from Rahraw, it seems like there are technical problems for him getting on line. There are photos too to follow

Dear Shapoor, Hope your doing well and thanks for your nic e-mal

A part of my photography album content photos from around the nature in our environment. I observe objects with a new look in the environment, which are seen time by time without displacing and putting them in a new situation or taking them in to a new environment that its aspect could attract the observant. I see the objects in its own place with its natural condition but with a new look. For example the picture that shows the colors falling from wall. In our city walls are mostly painted in watercolor without erasing the previous and old color. Gradually the new color starts falling down and again the previous color start appearing. It has a great political and social aspect for me. The picture of scale 282 I have captured it from a shop in the city. Over that, the weights, which are standard and measured lawfully by governor with its specific weights written over that and the stones, which are illegal and nonstandard with its natural shape, held from land. Both are used equally for measurement. Two different weights have an equal confidence and usage. Customers have confidence in one must have on another too. This difference makes the base of many businesses. The picture of It shows a tap of water that cannot prevent continuity of water. For prevention of water it is tied with plastic. It has not prevented water completely just for an urgent prevention it is used. These sorts have made the base of many activities in our country currently. The picture of rocket It shows a rocket that its explosion has disabled the father of a family. Now this man use wheelchair of survivors. But this family has mad legs for bed and search for their peace over that. The picture of axe 281 It shows an axe with its wooden handle that cut tree by this. It makes a great meaning. We have an expression among the people: "tree says: if the handle of axe wouldn't be mine the axe couldn't cut me".

Photography from children Once upon a day a professor (teacher in Kabul University) had a trip from a province to another province, on that way his car punctured. He gave it for a workshop for repair. In the workshop several children were working. He told one of them to repair the tire. After several minutes he was very cold in his warm

cloth and angrily told the boy to hurry. The child in his  
tore cloth with his small and frozen hands working  
seriously signaled for the teacher to keep his patience.  
The teacher told: “you are too naughty and impolite,  
elders must be respected. It is their right.” The child said:  
“do you (elders) know what are the children’s right. Didn’t  
you put the children in such place and situation? Didn’t  
you take my father from me? You have ruined the  
homeland. That’s why we must respect you. And you  
have the right of respect.” This discussion had a real  
effect on the teacher that he wrote it for an afghan  
newspaper. These pictures from children are real mirror of  
our activities. We have to see our faults in through bodies  
of these children to know what we have done with them.  
These children with their small bodies and their huge  
hearts full of pains, poorness and depravities are  
appearing over the pavements upon the people. So that  
we never forget the bad result of war and never forget  
our responsibilities upon their safety. Whenever I am  
photographing from children I am shying upon myself that  
they( the children) will said we have mad issue for them  
self first they put us in this condition and it is good topics  
and subject for them. best regard Rahraw Omarzad

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■ [JuliaFarrington](#) - 12:47am Dec 5, 2005 GMT ([35.](#))

Hello Shpaur == here are images from Rauraw emailed a  
few hours ago:

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=530> -  
Imagine Art After Image

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=531> -  
Imagine Art After Image

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=532> -  
Imagine Art After Image

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=533> -  
Imagine Art After Image

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=534> -  
Imagine Art After Image

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=535> -  
Imagine Art After Image

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=536> -  
Imagine Art After Image

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=537> -  
Imagine Art After Image

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■ **[ShapurAmini](#)** - 08:23pm Dec 5, 2005 GMT ([36.](#))

Hi Rahraw, how are you. I am glad still we can communicate in spite of some technical problems. As we know, this week is the last week for the dialogue and we have to be planning ahead. I have found your last message and images very interesting and comprehensive. These pictures are not just images to me, but an illustrated history of Afghanistan. History usually talks about the past. What is interesting about this history is that it talks about the past, present and the future, in case we forget them. The story about the teacher and the children is one fact among so many. I am glad the teacher too has learned his lesson. There are many individuals and groups in Afghanistan that need a check up or tadawi kar dara, as we used to say it in Afghanistan. I remember children were told not to reason with adults as it was regarded as insult. The punishment in schools where teachers used to hit students is another example. Of course now many things have to be changed, challenged and corrected. Here we all wish for a healthy and democratic society, especially a society in which humanity, values, culture, art, ethics, and human achievements and civilizations are in tact. There was a time in Afghan history that we saw tables for speeches and even walls painted RED or GREEN and finally without any color by the governments of that time. As far as the new and old paint on the walls in some of the images are concerned, I hope the same things never happen to Afghanistan. I am glad the same wall is not there any more although political impressionists are still around. I will be back soon with more images for you. Take care and good luck.

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■ **[JuliaFarrington](#)** - 12:24am Dec 8, 2005 GMT ([37.](#))

Hi Shapur, Rahraw still can't get into the dialogue - strange, some technical hitch, I have asked GU if they can help out. So this came by email. Best wishes Julia

Dear shapur, I hope you are fine. It will be too nice if you send reports about the activities of your academy for Art magazine "Gahnama-e-Hnar". How is the art activities of Afghans here? If there are someone, who are they? It is too attractive that you and your wife have activities about art. It is too much good running workshops for design media management in Afghanistan and it is so nice that you are in contact with writers and cultural personalities. We will feel so glad if these persons around you send us any articles for our magazine

There was not electricity in our city. In many areas the electricity production system was ruined and many of the places were deprived from that during 13 years. Children don't know the electricity. In the areas where the system was not ruined completely, the electricity systems were turned off because of the drought. Some years were passed without electricity and some years were passed with hours of electricity weekly. In such areas children had not seen electricity and feeling the deprivation waiting for. After political transitions electricity centers were repaired in some areas and because of rains during last year they reactivated. Regretfully after some months the darkness got its place again through Kabul city. The citizens have only 8-12 hours electricity weekly. The child in the picture is shown in three conditions with a candle, with a lantern, with a lamp. He has grown bigger and displaced to other home but again experiencing the past memorials. This photo can be put in an exhibition again. Children are feeling this deprivation more than ever because Kabul TV and many other TVs has channels.

this are the links numbers:

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=578>

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=576>

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=575>

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=573>

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=571>

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■ **RahrawOmarzad** - 05:33pm Dec 9, 2005 GMT ([38.](#))

Hi shapur,

I tried to send you one of my video film and video performance and one of group painting by young artist which very meaning full but unfortunately because of same technical problem it was is not possible I will try again to do it next time . Would you please tell same thing about Afghan artist activities in Uk. And the artist in visual arts in special . who are living there from Afghan artist . how your thinking about the cooperation of afghan from abroad and in side to work to gather for Afghanistan. this is my e-mail add R\_omarzad@yahoo.com, or gahnama@yahoo.com, or ccaa\_kabul@yahoo.com

best regard rahraw

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■ **ShapurAmini** - 05:41pm Dec 9, 2005 GMT ([39.](#))

Hi Rahraw, As we are reaching the end of dialogue, our communication reminds me of first few day and weeks of the dialogue. Rahraw, Rahraw, we are losing you rahraw, Rahraw, Hello ... To me and you Rahraw, of course this is the start of a new relationship for what we do and believe. here are the images that I was going to send you for the last days. Here in London, Christmas is coming soon. Later, I will go to Central London and hopefully you will see a difference. It is also nice to see so many lights around and specially on the streets. People are very happy and so are we. Here people are happy because the government and the people with all their hearts and mind made what are here now. I hope peace and happiness will come to all, in Afghanistan and United Kingdom or the rest of the world for that matter. Talk to you soon.

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=617> - Ustad Breshna

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=618> - Brishna 1

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=620> - Brishna 2

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=621> -  
Brishna 3

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=622> -  
Brishna 4

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=623> -  
Brishna 5

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=624> -  
Brishna 6

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=619> -  
Brishna 7

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=625> - Life &  
Migration

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=626> - Me,  
My Brother & Mum

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=627> - My  
Family in Afghanistan

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=628> -  
Assiya Amini

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=629> -  
Assiya 1

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=630> -  
Assiya 2

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=631> -  
Assiya 3

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=632> -  
Assiya 4

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=633> -  
Assiya 5

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=634> -  
Assiya 6

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=635> -  
Assiya 7

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=636> -  
Assiya 8

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=637> -  
Assiya 9

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=638> -  
Bodies & Sould

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=639> -  
Bodies & Sould 1

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=640> -  
Bodies & Sould 2

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=641> -  
Bodies & Sould 3

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=642> -  
Bodies & Sould 4

<http://www.imagineartafter.net/view.php?id=643> -  
Bodies & Sould 5

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■ [BredaBeban](#) - 08:10am Dec 10, 2005 GMT ([40.](#))

Rahraw, Shapur

would appreciate if I could have your comments on the statement from the British Art Show 6 catalogue quoted below. Please note that the dialogue ends tomorrow:

'In a cosmopolitan art world, in which artists travel to make work and take part in the exhibitions, the fact that an artist is British, Brazilian or Chinese is of diminishing significance. To compare artists from the perspective of their geographical origin is often to emphasise the most superficial aspects of their practice. The approach is fraught with the perils of reductiveness and stereotyping.'

The British Art Show is a touring exhibition which occurs every 5 years. BAS6 is currently staged at the BALTIC in Newcastle.

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■ **BredaBeban** - 07:16am Dec 11, 2005 GMT ([41.](#))

am forwarding a message from Tatjana Strugar who has organised live streaming of the actual encounter with her imagine art after partner Sinisa Savic in Belgrade.

tomorrow from 7pm Belgrade time (it's 6pm UK) there will be a live streaming from the gallery ozone. hopefully the busy man Sinisa will show up and we'll have a little heart to heart chat

you'll be able to see it all directly on

<http://www.o3.co.yu/live.html>

for 1 hour (6-7pm uk time). for more info you can go to

<http://www.o3.co.yu/>

or directly

<http://www.o3.co.yu/-events/dec-guardian/guardian.html>

fingers crossed Sinisa can make it!

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■ **ShapurAmini** - 05:38pm Dec 11, 2005 GMT ([42.](#))

Dear Rahraw, It seems that we are leaving the dialogue soon. Hope to hear your final thoughts and comments. Here are some more pictures. They present London at Christmas 2005. The images from different artists in the Market place are for you and the students to view and see their work. I hope you, and the students in particular, will have the chance to see some paintings from Ustad Breshina. Here in London, the lightings are very interesting. I hope Afghans will have a chance to see their country and life style and standard of living in a very good condition. There are enough help available from International Community to provide services for the public. More delays will mean lack of professionalism and the bad and unstable society. I still have, as I always had, the images of Afghan children with their bare feet and torn clothings in my mind. The last few images are taken, with thoses children in your in mind. When I was looking at

the play ground for children and families, I have imagining those boys and girls occupying the play ground. They soon will have to change and weak system with their artistic work and activities. I hope the artist could find a place where they could show their work and have a larger veiwers for their work and the future of artistic work and services in Afghanistan. Regarding our cooperation and work for Afghan Satellite Channel and your magazine, I will speak to you on the phone or by email in more details. There are a lot we can do to promote arts and helping people to learn in order to help themselves in the longer time. I will read the previous messages and get back.

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Children First 3

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Children First 4

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Children First 5

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 11:53pm Dec 11, 2005 GMT ([43.](#))

Hi Rahraw, let me know if you have viewed all the images. I am just about to form atv studios as an Afghan film & TV production centre. This is an important step towards the main project, Afghan Satellite TV Channel. It would be a full supporting hand for all forms of art and media in Afghanistan and the world and art in general. I Hope to see you in London or Afghanistan soon. We will be in touch. You take care and good luck with all the work and activities. Hi Breda, Julia, all the artists and the rest of the team. I had a unique experience in expressing myself as well as talking to Rahraw and bringing up many issues. Seeing many images from Rahraw and myself while having the texts as our narratives and means of communication, I have come to this finding, in my line of work and activity, that although Afghans are living apart and not in communication directly or in some ways by News Papers, Radio, TV or email, many of them have developed a sense of responsibility and willingness to participate and be involved in the development of their country, culture, arts and many more which have been forbidden and much have been destroyed by ignorance and business. I am very thankful to be selected by this project and my thanks to Breda in particular. I am sorry if I sound to be too much in my dream and talk about ideas and projects. But, again, why not. I hope by Christmas next year, I could have a lot to offer for Afghanistan as well as in the field of arts and media in London. Especially to be side by side with as many Rahraws as possible. I am grateful to all of you. It would be very nice to follow the project to the end and get full information from the outcomes. Till that time.

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 01:10am Dec 12, 2005 GMT ([44.](#))

Hi Rahraw, hi Breda, I was just about to go and I have just remembered to write my comment on the statement from the British Art Show 6 catalogue. I believe art and

artist are as free as the mind and imagination of a philosopher. They can create anything and nothing and operate in darkness and light. They observe much deeper than the modern world can remember and the message can even go much further than our physical vision and technology could read. To me, there is nothing superficial in any aspects of art nor in activities of an artist, no matter what 'the perspective of geographical origin' means to each one of us. Today in the world, there are many concepts with many interpretations. Although the world is becoming smaller and smaller as technology and communications are concerned. Yet, many ideas, thoughts and meanings in life, societies and environments are in itself a variety show. That is what I think.

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■ [ShapurAmini](#) - 06:35pm Dec 18, 2005 GMT ([45.](#))

Dear Rahraw, although the dialogue is over, but there were few pictures that I would have liked to comment on them earlier. But some thing happened today and I signed in again to this dialogue as a place to share my feelings and sadness. I believe there are many things that determine and effect the aspects of life and work of artists and thinkers and/or any human being. The following images are from my brother Nasrat who was arrested on 25th. of October. Here are the pictures which show the brutality and harsh treatment by police officers involved. There was an incident near my mother's house. Nasrat was passing by while looking at two police officers with plain uniform who were involved in communication with some passengers in a car. Nasrat was asked to go away by one of the officers to which he replied, this is my way and I live here. The other officer shouted to his partner to arrest him. They both jumped on him and had him on the floor. By then, more police officers arrived in uniform and Nasrat was taken in the van to Ealing Police Station where he was kept from 1 pm till almost 12 midnight. That was few weeks ago. Today, Nasrat had an appointment in Ealing Police Station. He was late. Police officers have arrived in his place and were looking everywhere for him. Nasrat's wife told the officers that he has gone to the Police Station. They did not believe the wife and have searched the place. Of course Nasrat was in the Ealing Police Station. Because he was late, he has been kept in a police cell till tomorrow when the Police Officers could take him to the court. It was said

that Nasrat interfered with Police and was violent etc. Nasrat is married with two sons. He is very quiet and never was involved in any disturbances etc. Sadly, Nasrat suffers from schizophrenia. He is a very nice person. What has happened is too much for him to cope. After being in London for almost 20 years, it was the first time he said that here is not our place any more. We have heard of many many bad stories about prisoners and what have happened to them. Nevertheless, what has happened to Nasrat has broken our hearts. I know some other Afghans who were the victims of some police officers brutality and bad behaviour. Tomorrow, Nasrat has to appear in Ealing Magistrate's Court in the morning. I pray that Justice will prevail.

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I welcome comments on this issue.

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■ **[ShapurAmini](#)** - 01:50am Sep 28, 2007 GMT ([46.](#))

A warm greeting to Julia, Breda and all good artists and friends who took part in this project. This message comes after a very long time. The reason is that I have left the dialogue after the first stage and then my life followed with some sort of emotional and also some sort of pressure from every corner. I am still working for the Afghan satellite channel and the work of Afghan Academy is doing well with few new projects. Anyway, I was glade to find out that the following stages of the project were going well and all the artists who took part are doing very well. I have not heard anything from our Afghan friend Rahraw for a very long time and I hope he is safe and doing well in Afghanistan. It is time I said a big congratulations to Julia, Breda and all artists who made it to the final. I was so happy to find out about the success of the project and the opening of the exhibition on 5th October 2007 at the Tate Britain. I hope I could make it

to see all friends and the rest of the work with the final result. I wish you all a very healthy and successful life and especially thank Breda and the Index Art for giving me the opportunity to join and be part of this unique experience. I would like to end the dialogue with my best wishes to you all and a very sincere apology for any short coming for my part. Shapur Amini

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