

## Archaeology of the Final Decade Projects

May 2015



**Kaveh Golestan: Prostitute** curated by Vali Mahlouji, will be the first UK exhibition of the late Iranian documentary photographer's portraits taken between 1975–77 in the Citadel of Shahr e No (New Town), Tehran's red light district, a walled ghetto where 1,500 women lived and worked. The Citadel was set on fire a few weeks before the victory of the revolution in 1979 with an undisclosed number of residents trapped inside, and was later demolished through an official decree.

This exhibition is part of **Archaeology of the Final Decade**, a curatorial platform which recirculates artistic materials that have remained obscure, over-looked or in some cases destroyed. The exhibition has

previously toured to FOAM (Amsterdam), Musée d'Art Moderne (Paris) and MAXXI Museum (Rome).

20 - 24 May 2015

[Photo London](#)

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**Photo London Public Programme**

**Vali Mahlouji in Conversation with Stephan Deuchar, Director of ArtFund**

**Sunday 24 May at 3.30pm - 5pm**  
Screening Room, Somerset House.

Please book tickets [here](#).

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# Whitechapel Gallery

**RETRACING A UTOPIAN STAGE:  
FESTIVAL OF ARTS, SHIRAZ-PERSEPOLIS  
(1967-1978)**

26 April - 4 October 2015

Whitechapel Gallery as an Archive Gallery exhibition.

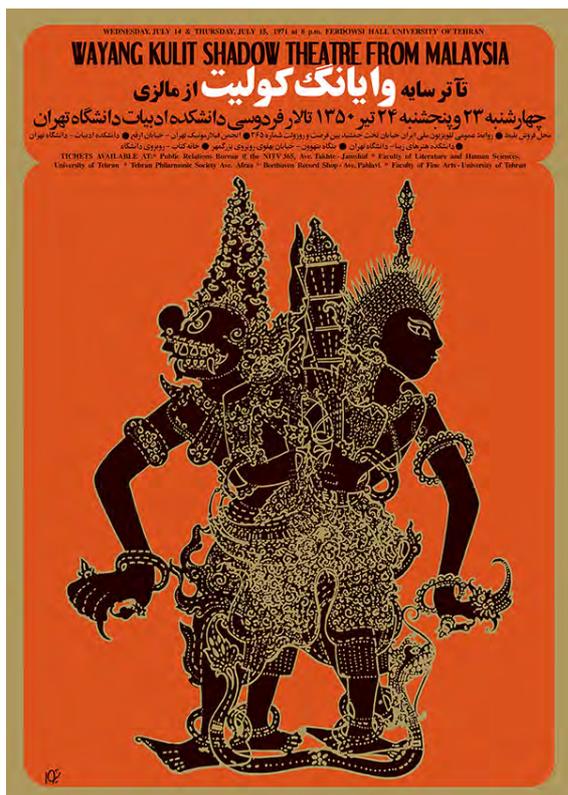
The ancient Persian ruins of Persepolis were a spectacular backdrop for 'one of the most

adventurous and idiosyncratic festivals in the world' (Artforum). The Festival of Arts was held around Shiraz, Iran every summer from 1967–1977.



A melting pot of Asian, African and international avant-garde music, theatre and performance, the festival featured artists, including, sitar player Ravi Shankar, shahnai player Bismillah Khan and American composer John Cage, alongside Rwandan drummers and Balinese Gamelan musicians and dancers. Orghast, a play by poet Ted Hughes and Mahin Tajadod, co-directed by Peter Brook, was staged, while Merce Cunningham's dancers performed calisthenics among the ruins of Persepolis.

The festival was banned after the Iranian revolution and its documents removed from public access, but it is now brought to life through this display of archive film and photographs, original theatre programmes and posters seen for the first time in the UK.



## Public Event

**Vali Mahlouji is in conversation with Richard Gough**, Artistic Director of the Centre for Performance Research (CPR), Professor of Performance Research at Falmouth University and Emeritus Professor of Aberystwyth University.

**Thursday 28 May at 7 pm,**

[Whitechapel Gallery](#)