



V SHALL OVERCOME!

BEYONCÉ KNOWLES
(AND THE MAKING OF SASHA FIERCE)
IN LOUIS VUITTON S/S 2009
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
BRUCE WEBER

56

WINTER 2008/09

US \$6.50 CAD \$7.50 DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 20, 2009





WORK IN PROGRESS

Photography Jason Schmidt

CLEAN SLATE

HER FILMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE DENSELY LAYERED IN STYLE AND MEANING, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY **ARTIST SHIRIN NESHAT** FINDS PLEASURE IN THE PURITY OF A WHITE ROOM

First I thought Jason Schmidt would be surprised, if not disappointed, once he saw my space, as he might expect a more exotic studio from me. The truth is that I normally keep a small studio for my photo-based work, which tends to be cluttered with people and equipment, but lately I've been spending most of my time in my loft where I live, which is quite spare. With my filmmaking, the process tends to be very collective. I barely find myself alone, everything happens in relation with someone else. So when I'm at home, I have the urge for a quiet and minimal space. When I am dreaming of new ideas, I feel vulnerable, doubtful, emotional, even melancholic, so I need to spend more time alone. But when I'm producing the work, I'm social, confident, and very much in command. I remember the day Jason visited me I was not well. Maybe it was the anxiety of traveling to Egypt the next day, and all the unknown elements awaiting me in relation to the new film project, or perhaps it had something to do with the fact that it was my son's first day away in college. The day before I dropped him off like a proud mother, but suddenly I felt a terrible case of separation anxiety. Anyhow, it was a day for sadness and confusion, all of which I consider healthy human conditions. **Shirin Neshat**