

Iran Issa-Khan



# Picture-Perfect Opening

Iran Issa-Khan's soothing photos of nature receive a glorious A-list reception in New York.

BY SUZY BUCKLEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN RITTER

**When Madison Avenue's esteemed** Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery hosted an exhibition for Miami's own photo-documentarian darling Iran Issa-Khan, longtime friends and fans from around the world turned out in droves. The show, titled *Infinity*, ran for a month this fall, kicking off with a 600-person opening bash. An intimate lunch at the gallery was fashioned by acclaimed Colombian-born interior designer Juan Carlos Arcila-Duque. >



Issa-Khan with Sam Bardaouil (in black) and Charlie Scheips



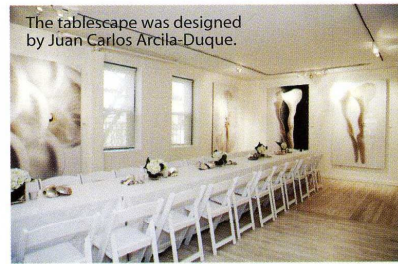
Endless Love



Rose Hartman



Pamela Gross, Martin Saar and Nazgol Jahan



The tablescapes were designed by Juan Carlos Arcila-Duque.

*“I wanted the room to have a very Zen feeling to it, like walking into a place that felt like a cocoon of love.”* — Iran Issa-Khan

There, Issa-Khan displayed 11 of her bright, white images of shells, corals and flowers, chosen for what she says was their “purity, simplicity and sensuality.” The Tehran-born photographer, whose nature-focused work has often been compared to that of Georgia O’Keefe, bucks digital technology and instead captures her subjects using a Sinar camera loaded with film. She then blows up the images to sizes four-by-seven feet, five-by-six feet or even five-by-ten feet: “When they’re that big, they become truly extraordinary,” she says.

Persian gallerist Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller served Iranian food prepared by her personal chef amid the chic, soothing ambiance cultivated by Arcila-Duque during the lavish, four-hour lunch. “My intention was to somehow bring a little bit of Miami to New York,” Arcila-Duque explains. “And since Iran photographs shells and flowers, I brought the sensation of the pictures down to the table.” He set up a very long table in the middle of the gallery—what he describes as “Last Supper-style”—and adorned it with seashells, flowers and little glasses filled with sand. Toasting Issa-Khan was an A-list slice of the fashion, social and art world, including Gisue Hariri, Miwako Tezuka, Pilar Crespi Robert, Charlie Scheips, Michele Oka Doner, Tui Pranich, Sam Robin and Jonathan and Criselda Breene.

“Everyone had just returned from their summer vacations in Europe or the Hamptons,” explains Issa-Khan. “I wanted the room to have a very Zen feeling to it, so that people were taken aback when they walked in and could almost be transported back to those days. Here these people had just come from the hustle and bustle of New York City—with all its headaches and craziness—and walked into a place that felt like a cocoon of love.”



Nell Redowe



Dana Hammond  
Stubgen and  
James  
Hammond



Iran Issa-Khan, Radu and  
Debbie Dickinson



Gisue Hariri



Miwako Tezuka

Soixante-Neuf



Leila Faghini,  
Milahi Heller and  
Dana Hammond  
Stubgen



*Iran Issa-Khan's longtime friends and fans from around the world turned out in droves for the show, Infinity.*



Juan Carlos Arcila-Duque  
and Charlie Scheips



Debbie Dickinson