Women in Iran

In general thinking few other countries in the world are the place where differences, mainly in rights, between men and women are so enormous. Iran after cultural revolution makes us understand that the forces involved in society which is modern, developed and open to the flow of ideas of all the people that made history here, are completely unforeseeable. It is like that at least for those who had thought of another way to development. Khomeini's plan has been going on for 30 years but iranian women seem to be aware of their power, but not everywhere in this big and beautiful country. The black veil of various shapes, names and types of covering is only a thin skin unable to bear the impact of strong personality, vitality and dynamism many women seem to have learnt to develop. Under the veil they "run business" men can't control.

This reportage is due to a journey made in October 2008 through the regions of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The photos you see here are only a part of the ones I took and speak of the women I met even by chance on the way.

Teheran
Women who take buses to move must get on by the rear entrance. Men board in the front.

Teheran
A child in his mother's arms.

Yazd
A prayer room: men are on the right, women on the left where the entrance is covered with a curtain.

Yazd
In a bank, a notice on a poster
of Khamenei quotes a passage
from Koran:
the sun is shining everywhere.

On the shores of the Caspian Sea
A woman with her husband who is swimming
in his bathing costume.

Mashaad
A little girl, sitting on the pavement,
is polishing the shoes
of the passers-by.

Bazaar in Shiraz
Women buying colored materials: as a general rule the veil (chador) is black.

Persepolis
Mernaz is wearing gloves (the temperatures is about 40° C) not to get tanned. She can't understand why in other countries people spend money to tan using sun-lamps.

Teheran
A woman begging in the central bazaar.

Bus station in Shiraz
A little girl's face: for her the veil is not yet compulsory.

Persepolis
In this region temperatures often get to 40° C.

Bazaar in Esfahan
When this man saw that I was taking a photo of the dummy showing a bare breast, he ran out to take it away.

Teheran
Though lots of women are completely covered with the veil, jewelers' shops are full of golden ornaments of every kind.

Mashaad
In the Holy City of the Shian
a couple of tourists from
Saudi Arabia pose for a photo.

On the outskirts of Zanjan
With a shoppimg bag
under the veil.

Bazaar in Shiraz
She couldn't stop laughing
seeing that I wanted to take
a photo of her.

Juri Ciani lives in Florence, Italy, and works in the CG Industry, with the alias of Jeppetto, where operates as GraphicDesigner. He also teachs 3D modeling in Urbino's Academy of Fine Arts. In 2005 he started up the photographic project "Terradiconfine" ("Borderland"), with a website where he shares reportage and traveling experiences through five continents.
In 2007 he published the book "Mwadzuka Bwanji" ("Ho did you wake up?" in chichewa language – Ed. Masso delle Fate), a storytelling about the african state of Malawi, that shows some kinds of humanitarian issues in this country.

Some of the last published reportage:
2009 – "Caos Sublime pt. 2", a comparison between Quneitra – Syria, Golan Heights – 36 years after the war against Israel, and L'Aquila – Italy – after the April 06th 2009 earthquake.
2009 – "Caos Sublime pt. 1", thinking about reconstruction after L'Aquila April 06th 2009 earthquake. (texts by M. Fuksas)
2009 – " The new faces of China in Florence", in collaboration with La Repubblica newspaper.
2008 – "Women in Iran", about female status inside the Islamic Republic of Iran.
2007 – "T27", the way of the highest world's railway, from Beijing to Lhasa.
2006 – "Senegal in Florence", a day life with senegalese illegal vendor, in San Lorenzo's market.
2001 – "G8, July 2001", Genova before – described in the text – and during – shown in pictures – the G8 meeting in July 2001.