

ECHOES OF THE VOICELESS

Zeinab Chaichi Raghimi

Josephine Stealey, Ph.D., Chair of the Thesis Committee

ABSTRACT

Systematically exploring themes of women's rights, gender, tradition, and religion within the social context of Iran, my work traces the intricacy of how identity is woven along these dimensions. I transgress the norms and rules of religion and traditional culture to mine issues such as the objectified woman, the violation of women's rights, and the psychological and emotional conditions of Iranian women under traditional or religious rules in order to illustrate the historical lack of respect shown to women in Iran. My goal in this body of work is twofold: 1) to highlight the abuse and disrespect women have suffered within traditional Islamic/Iranian culture and, 2) to suggest how women today have become empowered.