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MINA KESHWAR KAMAL, Tom Block

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MINA KESHWAR KAMAL, by Tom Block
Oil on canvas, 40 x 30, 2006

At 20 years of age, Mina Keshwar Kamal began her work to empower the women of Afghanistan. In 1977 she founded the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) to provide education, shelter, and healthcare to Afghani refugees of the Soviet occupation. In 1981, she launched the feminist magazine *Payam-e-Zan* ("Woman's Message"). Attaining international recognition for her work, she made several trips to Western Europe to testify about the plight of women in Afghanistan and surrounding refugee camps. She was murdered in Quetta, Pakistan in 1987. This painting is one of a series that are part of Tom Block's Human Rights Painting Project, in conjunction with Amnesty International. In this series, Block highlights the struggle for human rights the world over - and the important work that Amnesty International does in working toward this goal. In his work, Tom Block interpreted different aspects of the struggle for human rights, emphasizing the stories that bring it to life.