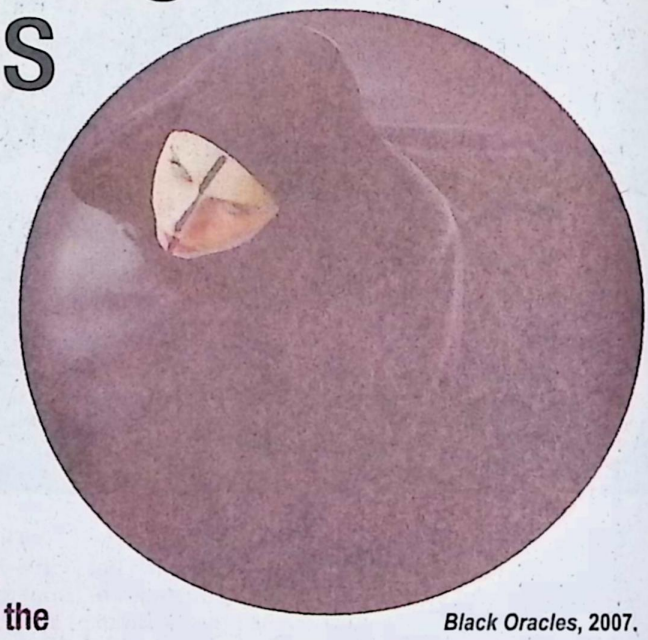
# Representing Women as Spiritual Beings



*Black Oracles*, 2007.

**Maïmouna Patrizia Guerresi, a noted Italian photographer, sculpture and installation artist works on the relationship between women and society, with particular reference to countries like Asia and Africa in which the role of women are marginalised. In an interview with *the Star*, Guerresi talks about her work of cosmological and mythical ancestral traditions belonging to various African and Asian cultures.**

**ANANTA YUSUF**

**What was your childhood like? Did you want to be a photographer when you were a child? How did you start your journey as a photographer?**

I was born in Italy, in the Veneto region, into a Roman Catholic family. My uncle was a missionary in Africa and one of my aunts was a nun. My parents often invited African clergy members to our home to watch films and look at photographs about their missions. I was always fascinated by that world. I graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. After a short period of painting and drawing, I decided to use a camera to produce my first works, which were part of the "Body Art" movement. I worked with nature, with trees and mythical figures like "Daphne" and "Apollo". My first black and white photographs were entitled "Mimesis" and I produced mould sculptures, like "Armour – Chrysalides". Throughout my career I



Maïmouna Patrizia Guerresi