



▲ **NAZIF TOPÇUOĞLU** TURKEY

*Is it for Real?*, 2006

C-print, 112 x 133 cm (44 $\frac{1}{8}$  x 52 $\frac{3}{8}$  in.)

Topçuoğlu re-stages Caravaggio's *Incredulity of St Thomas* (c. 1600) exclusively with women. Whereas Caravaggio's disciples peer at Christ's wound with stern, scientific rigor, Topçuoğlu's disciples seem to regard their compatriot's scar (perhaps from heart surgery) more out of empathy and concern. One of the women lovingly cradles the elbow of the central figure as she reveals her trauma. Would it be different if all Jesus's disciples had been women? Would they have reacted with Mary's devotion instead of Thomas's doubt?