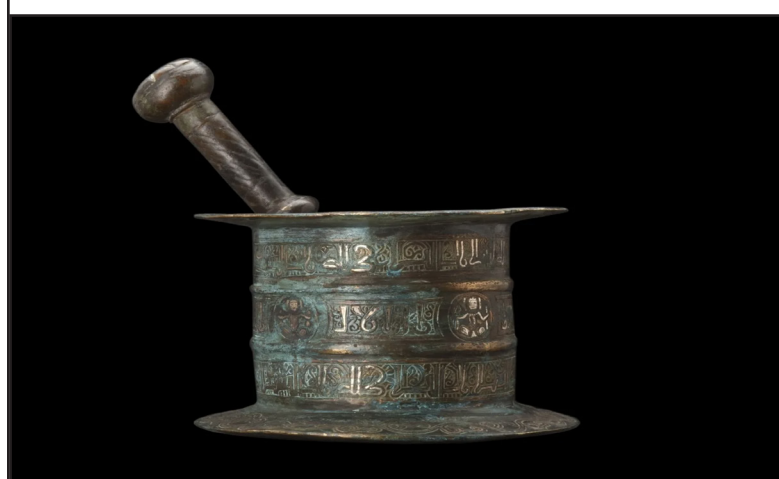


London's Apollo Auctions to Host Iranian Art



Beautiful silver-inlaid bronze mortar and pestle set, circa 1100-1200 AD.

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Apollo Art Auctions will host a professionally curated 192-lot online-only sale of fine Chinese and Islamic art on Thursday.

Of particular note is the selection of exquisite Chinese and Japanese porcelain and art ranging from Qing Empire productions to those of the 20th century. The diverse range of intricately painted porcelain captures the essence of central genres of Asian art that have been celebrated for centuries all over the world.

Auction highlights include an exceptional pair of Chinese Jiaqing Period (circa 1796-1799 AD) cloisonne enamel moonflasks. Each vessel stands 380mm high, has dragon-form handles and is richly decorated with an array of peonies. The elegant duo has been assigned an opening bid of £3,000 (\$3,815).

A monumental pair of Japanese Satsuma vases dating from the Meiji Period (1868-1912) features classical gilded motifs. The hefty vessels are decorated with scenes of court-

iers, scholars and attendants.

Each vase stands 950-970mm high x 350-350mm wide. They have a total weight of 42.5kg. Bidding for the pair will open at £2,000 (\$2,539).

With masterful decorations of a phoenix and peonies – a combination that represents the epitome of prosperity and well-being in Chinese culture – a large Chinese famille rose porcelain jar was created during the Qianlong Period of the Qing Dynasty, 1735-1796 AD. It measures 460 x 380mm and has been assigned an opening bid of £1,000 (\$1,270).

Additionally, the auction's impressive Islamic section includes early works in pottery, glass and bronze, e.g., Nishapur, Seljuk, Safavid, and many others. A superb Seljuk (Turco-Persian) silver-inlaid bronze mortar and pestle, of a type that would have been used in kitchens, apothecaries and medical facilities, dates to circa 1100-1200 AD. The set comes with provenance from a private London family collection and has a starting bid of £1,500 (\$1,905).

Official Wants to See Iran Back at Frankfurt Book Fair

TEHRAN – The Frankfurt Book Fair has expressed willingness to take part at the Tehran International Book Fair, an Iranian cultural official says.

Deputy Minister for Cultural Affairs Yasser Ahmadvand touched on the meeting of the representative of the Frankfurt Book Fair with Ali Ramezani, the CEO of Iran Book and Literature House on the sidelines of the New Delhi International Book Fair.

Ramezani is also deputy director and spokesperson of the 35th Tehran International Book Fair.

“On the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the exhibition, the German official expressed his desire that Iran take part at the Frankfurt Fair as before,” Ahmadvand said.

Representing Iranian publishing industry, the Book and Literature House Institute has attended the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2024 currently underway at the Pragati Maidan.

The fair opened on February 10 and will run by February 18. It is held for the past 50 years as a major calendar event in the pub-



Iran's pavilion at Frankfurt Book Fair, Germany, October 2018.

lishing world.

NDWBF 2024 is organized by National Book Trust under the Indian ministry of education.

It's the ninth time that Iran has participated in the event.

In the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been set up by the Book and Literature

House Institute, over 800 book titles on various subjects such as Iranology, art, calligraphy, religion, Persian language study, classical and contemporary Persian literature, children and young adults, Sacred Defense, etc. are being displayed. English and Urdu language books are

available for visitors.

The Iranian stand also hosts visitors by holding book unveiling programs, meetings on topics such as the common concepts of Persian poetry in Iran and India, the state of publishing in Iran, introducing the Tehran International Book Fair and its potential.

Iranian Yellow Deer Released to Dez National Park

TEHRAN -- In a collaborative effort between the Khuzestan Department of Environment, local grassroots organizations, and community members, a ceremony was held at the Dez National Park to set free 10 Iranian yellow deer.

The deer, bred at the reproduction site in the city of Arsanjan in Fars province, were released within the Dez National Park in the vicinity of the city of Shush



in southern Iran.

The event marks a significant initiative to preserve and reintroduce native wildlife, showcasing the commitment of environmental authorities and local communities to such efforts.

The release of the yellow deer also contributes to the ongoing endeavors to protect and revive endangered species, fostering a healthier ecosystem in the region.

A Look at Artistic Career of Bijan Mohtasham

TEHRAN -- Bijan Mohtasham, born in 1937 in the Iranian city of Mashhad, emerged as a pivotal figure in the realm of movie makeup.

He followed the footsteps of his father, Nariman, and his sister, Niloufar, both revered personalities in Iran's cinema and television industry, iFilm reported.

Having completed his education at Dar ul-Funun, Mohtasham's journey in the world of entertainment took a transformative turn when he embarked on various acting courses abroad from 1969.

Under the guidance of American makeup artist

John Chambers, he honed his craft, marking the beginning of a remarkable career.

The pinnacle of Mohtasham's career came in 1963 when he grabbed the Academy Award for Best Makeup for his work in the movie 'Planet of the Apes'.

Venturing beyond the silver screen, Mohtasham made his mark in theater, beginning his acting endeavors in 1955.

By 1966, he was promoted to the position of the head of the acting department at Television and Vahdat Hall (Roudaki).

In 1973, Mohtasham took

on the role of an educator, imparting his knowledge of acting at the School of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran.

Later, in 1992, he extended his influence to the Artistic Association, further shaping the future of several aspiring actors.

Acknowledged as one of the luminaries in the makeup art, Mohtasham's expertise reflects the influence of his teachings on Abdullah Eskandari, who was his student and a revered makeup maestro of Iran.

His commitment to the art-

istry of makeup was recognized at the inaugural Celebration House of Cinema, where he received the Best Makeup award for 'The Miracle of Laughter.'

Mohtasham's legacy extends beyond awards and accolades, encompassing the creative vision behind notable works like 'The Bold', 'Anything You Want', 'My

Beloved Spouse', 'Golden Tooth', and 'Wild Deer'.

Honoring his enduring contributions, Mohtasham received further acclaim at the 29th Fajr Film Festival.

Colorado Festival Awards Iranian Short Film



TEHRAN – Directed by Ali Khaledi, the Iranian short film "Pitage" has been awarded at the Ridgway Independent Film Festival in Colorado.

"Pitage", produced and directed by Ali Khaledi, depicts issues about humans.

The film has already participated in more than 16 domestic and foreign festivals and won the award for the best film on the topic of social awareness in the Danube River in Serbia.

Picture of the Day



Village life in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari. February 9 is recorded in Iran's official calendar as Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Day.

Photo by Mehr News